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Section 2, Living



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MONDAY 10 JUNE 1996

Teaching trainees have worst A-levels

'E' grades enough for some courses

FRAN ABRAMS Education Correspondent

Trainee teachers have lower A-level grades than any other group of university students, according to the first league table of students' qualifications.

Figures compiled by UCAS. the universities and colleges' admissions service, show that while medical and veterinary students have an average of two As and a B, aspiring teachers need only a C and two Ds. Some colleges will take entrants with two Es, it emerged.

Among the most difficult courses to get into are classics, dentistry and Japanese, all of which require an average of three B grades, followed by law, pharmacy and other modern languages.

The traince teachers are those going on four-year undergraduate courses which provide two-thirds of primary school teachers and just over a fifth of secondary-school teachers; almost all other teachers take

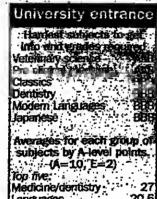
a one-year post-graduate course after an initial degree. The table, which has been sent to all schools and colleges, will allow students to base their subject choices on the grades they expect to get. Although mdividual universities give estimates of the grades students need for each course, these are the first national figures to show the actual grades needed to study various subjects.

Although teacher-training courses have lower requirements than any other group. some individual subjects do take students with fewer qualifications. Among the subjects which do not usually require high grades are industrial relations, librarianship and social work, all of which take students with an average of three Ds. Officials at UCAS said the able reflected demand rather



than the quality of courses. Popular subjects such as English, history and psychology all demand two Bs and a D, while engineering and technology subjects demand three Cs.

Some science courses, which are regarded as being hard to fill, still expect students to have



Languages Humanities . Social studies. Biological sciences Bottom five:

Mass communication Architecture, building and Combined studies Teacher training ____:

Belfast will be overshadowed by

the absence of an IRA ceasefire.

which means Sinn Fein will not

strong A-Level grades, though. Candidates for physics need an average of almost two Bs and a C, while those wanting to study chemistry need three Ca.

The National Commission on Education pointed out three years ago that the A-level scores needed to train as a teacher were dropping. In 1986, students going to university to teacher training courses had two Cs and a D, on average, though the figures are not directly comparable with the new table because the former polytechnics are included in the UCAS table.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of UCAS, said there was no reason to suppose that the quality of teacher training was lower than the quality of training for doctors. "We all know performance at A-level is a very poor

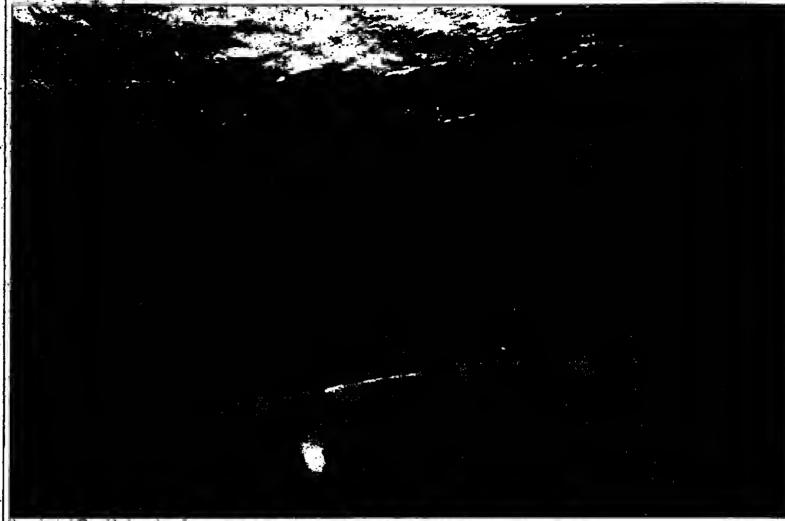
predictor of performance at degree level," he said. Ted Wrage, professor of ed-scation at the University of Exeter, said some institutions expected very good grades for teacher-training courses while others had very low require-ments. At Exeter, students nor-mally need to have a B and two Cs while some former polytechnics would take entrants with two Es, he said.

"For schools of medicine you anywhere, but there is an immense variety between the prestige institutions, usually the older universities like Exeter, and a number of newer universities," he said.

Gillian Sheohard, the Secretary of State for Education, will this week announce reforms to teacher training which will include a national syllabus for teacher-training courses. The syllabus will require colleges to train students in whole-class teaching, rather than the more progressive group-work ap-

Grammar veto, page 3

Norway has already killed 425 of these whales...



whele, the species targeted by Norwegian hunters, who are landing hundreds of the animals this week

But it wants to slaughter many, many more

NICHOLAS SCHOON Lofoten Islands

Fears of a widespread return to neicial whaling are being provoked by the news that Notwegitn whalers are landing hith-dreds of butchered minic whales their largest catch for a decade.
Notway's remarked industry
may pave the way for other
countries to join the dislighter,
imperilling one of the coveronmeotal movement's greatest

victories - the 1987 moratorium by the International Whaling Commission (TWC) on catching the hoge marine matimals. Only one real problem lies in

the whalers' path - a 300-ton mountain of hlubber; stored at minus -30C in a warehouse just north of the Arctic Circle. Norwegians do not eat blubber and can find no other use for it.

The stockpile is an embar-

rassment to Norway, particularly as it is about to have another 100 tons from this season's catch.

The Japanese eat blubber. and would pay very high prices for it. The whalers would love to export it there, but the Norwegian government hans inlikely world reaction. Norwegian government ministers are, however, looking into ways of dropoing the trade ban, Jan Henry Olsen, Norway's Fisheries min-ister, told the Independent: "Something is happening. It is moving in favour of us."

Norway is a member of the IWC, which holds its annual meeting in Aberdeen at the end of the month. The Norwegian ambition is to convert the antiwhaling majority of nations with-in the IWC to drop their opposition - which is why its gov-erament spent thousands of

British journalists, including me, to the Lofoten Islands, a remote but prosperous region above the Arctic Circle which is the heart of the nation's industry. Norway has played a long.

clever game to preserve its relict industry, and has been much Japan and Iceland, which also want an end to the moratorium. Norway filed an official objection to the ban within six months of it coming into force, which gave it the legal right to ignore it. But it also bowed to in-

ternational pressure and ceased commercial whaling in 1987 pending research into the state of the minke whale population in the north-east Atlantic. The hunt resumed in 1993, with a quota of 296 minke whales. This year's quota has risen to 425, and that number

has almost been caught already

pound last week flying a party of since the opening of the season

estimate of about 70,000. Norway's fisheries ministry says it out posing the slightest threat to the population, but wants to avoid sudden expansion and chaos in the whale meat market. The industry is small, with a total turnover of only a few mil-

in last month's calm weather.

An international minke sight-

ing survey last year produced an

estimate for the north-east At-

lautic of around 110,000 whales

- much higher than the previous

lion pounds a year, but it carries an immense political charge on the international scene. Only 31 fishing boats are licensed in catch whales this summer, takgovernment inspector on board.

ing around 14 each. Each has a Minke, which weigh about eight ton each, are the smallest of the great whales. Whalers shoot them with a small harpoon. According to the Norwegian government, in the 1994 seasoo just under 30 per cent died instantly and the average survival time after impact was three minutes. They are hutchered on board; the offal and skeleton are thrown over the side, with the blubber and ieat kept on ice. I his vear ti whalers are earning nearly £3 a kilo for the meat, a little less than last year, but in the shops

it costs at least four times that. Truls Soloy, a skipper with a quota of 10 whales, said: "11's more exciting than fishing. We've achieved what we hoped for and our fight to resume whaling has always been based on serious arguments.

His greatest hope is for an international trade in whale products. Foreigners who think whaling is barbaric are seen as ignorant, interfering or misinformed. "They don't understand what we are doing," he said.

QUICKLY

EU ups beef stakes
Franz Fischler, the European
Agriculture Commissioner, has Agriculture Commissioner, has ruled out any chance that Britain might secure a timetable for the lifting of the beef ban, and has proposed tough new demands for a framework to ease the crisis.

Investors get jitters
A record number of big investors plan to sell UK shares because of fears that interest rates will have to rise next year. Chancellor Kenneth Clarke will use his annual Mansion House speech on Wednesday to justify last week's surprise cut in base rates, but the financial markets are concerned about inflation-Page 18 ary signals.

Anti-Semitism 'ebbs' Anti-Semitism has peaked in Europe and appears to be declining especially fast in England, according to the this year's edition of the "Anti-Semitism World Report", a survey of 61

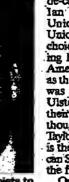


19.8

19.3

be at the table, and by rumblings. George Mitchell: Unionists to challenge his appointment of a Unionist challenge to the appointment of the former

American senator, George Mitchell, as overall chairman. Sim Fein's president, Gerry Adams, and his supporters are expected to stage a symbolic attempt to gain entry to the talks at Stormont in east Belfast, arguing that the 116,000 votes the Page 5 party won in the recent election



entitles it to places at the table. The two governments have mapped out a plan which begins with short speeches by John Major and the Taciseach, John Bruton, followed by discussions on a proposed agenda and by con-

de-commissioning. But the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and other Unionists are to challenge the choice of Mr Mitchell, describing him as "a Catholic Irish-. American from the same stableas the Kennedys". Last night it was not clear whether the Ulster Unionists would add their voices to these objections. though the deputy leader, John Taylor, said: This appointment is the equivalent of an American Serb presiding over talks on the future of Croatia."

Over the weekend the Ulster Unionist leader; David Trimble,

met Mr Paisley and Robert McCartney, of the UK Umonist Party, to work out a common Unionist approach in the talks. A concerted Unionist rejec-tion of Mr Mitchell would clearly make it difficult for him to continue as chairman of the sideration of the issue of arms talks, and would represent a set-

back for those hoping for ear-ly progress in the discussions. The weekend brought many calls for a renewed IRA ceasefire, with appeals coming from Mr Bruton and the Catholic pri-mate of all-Ireland, Dr Cahal Daly, who called for prayers for peace to be said at all masses.

The former Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds, was hopeful of an early ceasefire. Speaking after meeting Mr Adams, he said: "I am now satisfied that Gerry Adams and Sinn Fein will seek an early reinstatement of the

A telling indication of the state of public opinion in Northem Ireland was given in a poll indicating that 97 per cent of people wanted another FRA ceasefire, and that this included 84 per cent of those who supported Sinn Fem. Mr Mitchell's suitability as

chairman was defended by both



Gerry Adams: Will try to gain entry to the Stormont talks

the British and Irish governments and by other nationalists. Mr Major said: "Who better to be certain that the Mitchell report is kept than the author. and he is there as chairman of the plenary?" The former senator was also

supported by the Irish minister for foreign affairs, Dick Spring. who said he had difficulty understanding why anyone who wanted to see progress made in Northern Ireland objected a man who had shnwn "his capacity, his impartiality and his independence".

Mr Spring was attacked by Mr Trimble who said he was acting "more like an emissary of Sinn Fein-1RA" than as the representative of the Dublin vernment

Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland minister for political development, commended Mr Mitchell's impartiality and called on the IRA to declare a ceasefire, adding: "I hope they don't turn their back on that opportunity. If they do, I have to say they will be spitting in the faces of the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland who want to see this process work."

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EXHILARATION

CLASSIC M 100-102

Talks begin without Sinn Fein

DAVID McKITTRICK Ireland Correspondent

Twenty-one months after the IRA ceasefire of August 1994. the British and Irish governments and most of the Northem Ireland political parties are today due to assemble in Belfast for what could be historic talks on the future.

One irony is that the Unionist parties, which were most reficeot about going to the table. will be there. Another is that Sinn Fein, which has for years made the calling of such talks its principal political demand, development.

will not be present. The two govcomments judged that Sinn Fein historic agreement; equally, it lost its right to a place at the could end up in fiasco. Too table when the IRA shattered its ceaselire with the Dock- have ended in rancour, walklands bomb in London in February. Meanwhile, the Unionists were eased towards talks by last month's election.

Sinn Fein is oot vet in the talks, but many factors argue that another IRA ceasefire may not be long delayed. If so, it could be the first time that all parties to the conflict are assembled to one place, which would in itself be a momentous

That could in time lead to an many previous rounds of talks outs and even fisticuffs for anyone to be confident that talks will end in success.

To point to just one Paisley has been dispatched to the talks, on a ticket of no negotiations with republicans, by almost one voter in five. He may regard this as a mandate to indulge his penchant for theatrical gestures during the dis-

While Sinn Fein and the IRA decide on whether the talks are worth joining, the world will be pressing them for another ceasefire; and at this moment the logic points in that direction.

Sinn Fein pushed for talks, and they have oow been convened. It wanted assurances unpromising sign: the Rev Ian that discussions would not be restricted to a harangue on decommissioning; and a number of near-guaraotees have beco built in to help ensure that political ocgotiations will take

place.
The presence at the talks of the Irish government, the Social

aod, as chairmao, George should be attempting to re-Mitchell, the former American senator, amount to strong indications that the talks should cover the fundamental issues

the republicans want to raise. At the same time, an early breakdown in the talks could harden Sinn Fein in its view that Unionists are not ready for real oegotiations, and that the British government is not ready to push them in that direction. But the republicans have just

received, in their record vote in the election, the strongest and clearesi possible message from

Unionists

The unionist camp is divided into five parts, the largest of which are David Trimble's Ulster Unionists and the Rev Ian Paialey's.

Democratic Unionists. Mr Trimble and Mr Paisley were closeted

The principal aim of the Unionists is to defend Northern Ireland's

Politically the Unionist parties have said they will not discuss last

year's framework document in which London and Dublin laid out proposals for strong crossborder links. They oppose Dublin

"interference" in Northern Ireland matters and will be

seeking to dilute the Rapublic's Influence as much as

The other two small parties in this bloc are-

the Progressive Unionists and the Ulster Democratic

which are both, paradoxically, much more

party which both have paramilitary associations but

anthusiastic about negotiations than the larger.
Unionist parties.

Like the larger parties they too are pledged to dafend the British link, but they appear more willing to explore new ideas, and more

confident about their ability to hold their

own in negotiations with nationalists and

link with Britain. They oppose any government concessions to ... Sinn Fein and will be insistent that actual IRA arms de-

at the weekend with Robert McCartney of the smaller UK

commissioning must begin at an early stage.

Unionist party in an attempt to work out a common approac

Democratic and Labour Party their own supporters that they huld the peace process.

It is technically open to the IRA to walk away from the talks and to stage another bombing attack, most likely in Britain. But it must know that doing so would hring upon it the most severe political penalties, not just from outside opinion but from its own supporters and sympathisers.

This is probably the strongest pointer towards another cease fire: its timing, however, will be dictated by detailed tactical considerations.

David Trimble

The addinaters who put Romeo and Julief out of Phounds to purits has had an offer of a schools inspector post temporarily withdrawn. It was revealed yesterday. The Office for Blandards in Education has taken the step because I and Brown as involved in an industrial tribunal case concerning allegations of race discrimination.

Ms Brown a Jestian, who is field of Kingsmead Primary School in Hackney, east London, lift the headlines in 1994 after the stopped the pupils from seeing a production of the Shakespeare play because it was "entirely about beterosexual tow." The decision effects in outery among politicians and some teachers, and Ms Brown later issued an apology. Two weeks ago it was revealed that she had been offered the post of schools inspecter. But Ofsteel has now withdrawn the offer while it awaits the dulcome of the industrial tribunal which resonnes today.

ENERGY S

reindount Tortune accounts" containing privatised pensions, unemployment and sickness benefits, along with insurance for means only payments and long-term missing home care were proposed by the Adam Smith Institute yestertlay. The aim is to give individuals their own institute yestertlay. The aim is to give individuals their own take in their future welfare provision, paying contributions into a personal account managed by competing insurance companies, friendly societies or imancial insulations, run independently of Government. The free-market think tank's acheine bearts some similarities to kleas promoted by Frank Field, the Labour chamman of the Common Secial Security Communities. Chips Smith, Labour's social security spokesment, is expected to back a limited version of the idea when he deveils his party's plans for welfare later this month. Nicholas Timmins.

A test case over the poll tax is to receive a rating today. Prov judges at the European Court of Human Rights. Stephen Benham's legal battle over his refusal to pay the tax is the first of 20 cases in the pipeline in Strasbourg. At least 1,000 others are at the appeal stage in Bratain. Mr Benham. 29, was jailed for 30 days in March 1991 by magistrates in Poole. Denset, which he refused to pay a poll tax bill of £355 after spending fewer than 30 days in his parents house in one year. He won an appeal in the High Court, then took his case to the European Commission on Human Rights, which advises the judges. The commission agreed there had been three breaches of his rights by the jail sentence, by the fact the dennal of legal and to people changed with failure to pay tax; and because he was not entitled to compensation despite the High Court firsting. A ruling in his favour could cost the Government millions in compensation.

Injety one passengers refused to board an aircraft.

I from Florida, United States, after smoke was believed
to be seen coming from the sair condumning. The Hight
from Orlando landed in Manchester yesterday with 246;
passengers who had accepted assurances from Excalibur
Airways that the DC10 was serviceable, but some who
stayed behind accessed the airling of "bullying" equally
worried passengers into insvelling. Escalibur confirmed
that there was a problem which related to an "oil smell
from its from the six conditioning." However, the defect coming from the air conditioning". However, the defect was traced and most passengers were happy that the aircraft was "completely serviceable"

Two National Lottory tickers won nearly 55m each in Saturday straw. The lucky numbers for the 19,815,416... jackpot were 32, 15, 17,11, 25 and 46, with bonus tall 29.

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Northern Irish peace talks

British Government

While John Major is to open the proceedings, the chief weight of organising the conference will fall on the shoulders of the Secretary of State for Northern Island, Sir Patrick Maynew. He will be principally concerned to make some measure of progress among the parties, hoping that some momentum might develop to create a new and creative atmosphere. In the absence of Sinn Fein he will be anxious to explore what common ground exists among the other parties on ssues such as Northern Ireland's political future. Discussion on weapons de-commissioning will go on even if Sinn Fein is not present, with Sir Patrick watching for the possibility of Sinn Fein joining the talks at a later

Sir Patrick Mayhew The Government's last major detailed statement of its own vision of the future was laid out in the Anglotrish framework document of February 1995. This proposed a new Belfast assembly together with substantial new northsouth crossborder institutions, The government has since made little reference to the document, in the face of unionist

Sinn Fein

hosblity to its contents, but it is presumed

that it remains London's preferred option.

Sinn Fein will not be at

the table unless the IRA

Throughout the 17-month

iRA ceasefire which began

in August 1994 it pressed

convene all-party talks

along the lines of those

Since the hreakdown of the

ceasefire in Fehruary, however,

the two governments and most

of the other parties have been

declare a surpnse last-

minute ceasefire.

the government to

which open today.

insistent that they should not be brought into

the docklands bomb in February raised fears of a resumption of full-scale IRA violence, but in fact there have

been few violent incidents since then. The record Sinn

Fein vote in the recent election is widely interpreted as

A number of commentators have since said that the main question about a new ceasefire is not if but

talks until e new ceasefire is declared.

a vote for a renewal of the peace process.

when one will come about. Sinn Fein was

suspicious that the talks would be merely "a

de-commissioning conference" but the Irish

and British governments last week

negotiated an agenda designed to

signify that this would not be the

case. Such assurances have

heightened speculation that a

new ceasefire could be on the

cards before too long

The chairman: US Senator George Mitchell, a close associate of President Clinton and

> arms de-commissioning. Alded by anadian John de Chastelain and former Finnish prime mioister Harri Holkeri. Agenda and ground rules agreed and published by

the author of last January's report on

The talks

London and Dublin. More than sixty delegates from nine parties and two governments.

 After opening statements by John Major and John Bruton, early sessions will finalise arms de-commissioning, likely to be discussed by a sub-committee.

The talks to be divided into three strands 1 on political arrangements within Northern Ireland. 2 on north-south relations and 3 on overall Anglo-Irish relations

No time limit has

Minority parties

Three parties which do

not see themselves as

alther Unionist or nationalist

vill be at the talks table: the

Alliance party, led by Dr John

Alderdice, the Northern Ireland

Social Democratic and Labour party in Northern reland, together with the Dublin Government. The two. have traditionally worked closely togethar in negotiations. Although an Irish government

official, Fergus Finley, recently famousty said that talks without Sinn Feln would not be worth a-penny candle, it seems that Dubin is _____ Dick Spring ____ Sinn Fein would not be worth anow on the verge of going into . negotiations from which republicans will be absent. But

Nationalists

The nationalist bloc has

northern and southern

elements John Hume's

Dublin's hope will be that, within some weeks or some and will join in.

Its ambition is to keep all parties at the table for long : enough to work out a historic, far-reaching new settlement which will re-defina relaboriships in Ireland and between Ireland and Britain.

Its position will be that Irish unity cannot be brought about forcibly, and can come about only with the consent of northam Unionists. Its guld pro guo is that a fairer society should be built in Northern Ireland, and that northern nationalists should have their Inshness recognised in strong new north-south Institutions.

women's coalibon, and a Labour John Hume has made it clear that grouping he sees himself as having a Alliance is Northern Ireland's fifth largest historic mission to facilitate party, having taken 6.5 per cent of the vote the republican movement in in the recent election. It traditionally sees a transition from violence to peaceful mainstream politics.

John Alderdice

itself as attempting to facilitate agreement between the larger blocs, and is highly unlikely to object to anything agreed between the Unionists and the nationalists.

Its pancipal ambition is to see the setting up of a new partnership administration within Northern Ireland. The women's coalition, which secured 1 per cent of the vote, includes both Catholics and Protestants In its ranks. It wants a larger role for women in politics, and during the campaign said it would try to facilitate agreement rather than argue from any particular constitutional point of view. An ad-hoc Labour grouping secured a place at the table, with 0.85 per cent of the vote, because the top 10 parties were guaranteed admission

Political Correspondent

Labour is demanding an inquiry into a report that the Conservarive party in Scotland was prepared to accept secret donations through a fund which would disguise the destination of the payments.

porter, posing as a potential substantial donor who did not want to be identified, was told by Jim Lumb, director of fundraising for the Scottish Tory party, that this was "no problem".

Ron McKay, the reporter, using the name of a notorious then hand over an equivalent proach to anonymous and Glasgow gang leader and drug amount to us. It couldn't be perhaps suspect donations."

a "substantial" donation, but it was important that it was not made public. Mr Lumb replied: "You can pay the money into something called the Fuod for Free Enterprise. You'll get a receipt from them and they will

ministrator of the fund, which shares the Tory party's Edinburgh address.

George Robertson, Labour's Scottish affairs spokesman, said: 'It's amazing that the Conservative party should take this approach to anonymous and

The Fund for Free Enterprise bas been used in the past as a chancel for indirect Tory funding. A £5,000 donation was declared in the accounts of the McFarlanc Group (Clansman) two years ago. The company had previously giveo money to another Tory front organisation.

which was wound up because of the embarrassment its secretive nature caused the party. Lord McFarlane, the company chair-man, admitted that the Fund for Free Enterprise docation was desticed for the Tory party. A spokeswoman for the Tory party said she had no comment.

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Love of peace sparks a war in Provence

Residents of France's rural idyll are split over plans for its development

MARY DEJEVSKY

IGNIFICANT SHOW

The sun is just setting into the purple haze that brushes the slopes of Mount Ventoux. The vellow walls of nearby village houses have turned golden in the evening light; a hare bounds across the road and into the lavender meadow beyond, and the only sound is the song of the nightingale. This is the idyllic Provençal landscape of Cézanne. It is home, or second bome, for several bundred appreciative Britons, and just over the next ridge is the Luberon -popularised the world over by the books of Peter Mayle.

This rolling green countryside constitutes the Plateau d'Albion (an ironic name, given the number of Britons living bere), which has been for the past 30 years the site of France's missile base. And with the missiles about to be dismantled and the base closed, the delicate question bas arisen of what to do with some of the most spectacularly beautiful land in France.

The first tentative answers are threatening to split what has been a generally harmonious mix of natives and settlers, jobs. What private employer posters and a couple of actors nature and development. This weekend, the divisions surfaced in two separate and protests: one in the market town of Apt, the commercial centre for the region, which fears the loss of jobs and business; the second in the small town of Sault, where scattered local residents fear the loss of their peace and quiet.

This Saturday, as always, the market in Apt. a town of 10,000, packed up and left town at lunchtime. Unusually, though, the shops remained shut. Warning notices appeared in the windows of the cafes: "Out of community solidarity, we will not be serving customers today after 2pm." As 2.30 neared, people streamed towards the square: a forest of banners appeared with the names of villages, trade unions from the hospital and local businesses.

A mock coffin was trundled in, with "johs" written on one side, and " economy" on the other. A dozen or so town and village mayors followed, in their tricolour sashes, and the regional councillor in his yellow and red sash. There began an almost silent march around a silent lown to symbolise the 'ville morte" that people in Apt fear their town will become if the base shuts down.



Peter Mayle's best-selling book, A Year In Provence, which extolled the virtues of the region's beautiful landscape

"don't kill our jobs." Gossip was exchanged about plots being hatched in Paris to fob off the town with promises of tourist development and incentives for private investors. "We've seen what that's done to other parts of Provence," said the campaign organiser, Jean-Jacques Sicre. "We know that the base will close, but we need jobs."

Apt distrusts most options except one, first mooted last July, for a belicopter training school on the site of the base. "The military accounts for 1,500

promises", read the banner at could provide that many jobs all the bead of the demonstration, at once?" asked Gabriel Trouchet, a member of the Apt organising committee. "That's year-round employment. What tourist buys a car here, sends their children to school here, uses our hospital?"
Yet the very thought of a he-

licopter school is what has mobilised the Association for the Defence and Development of the Platean d'Albion Area (ADDPPA) which organised yesterday's protest in Sault. It was an altogether bigger, more diverse and also more professional affair, with balloons,

Locals pay the price of foreigner's dream

WILL BENNETT

The clauer of military helicopter rotor hlades will not be the first disruption that the long-suffering folk of Provence have had to put up with in

More than 10,000 Britons bave moved there, most of them during the past decade, pushing up property prices, parking Volvos all over the place and committing repeated atrocities against the French Worse still, one of them, the

former advertising executive Peter Mayle, wrote two worldwide best sellers: A Year in Provence and Toujours Provence about his life there. Many locals were irritated at being caricatured as lovable but greedy peasants who reneged on deals. cheated the authorities, and developed homicidal tendencies behind a steering wheel. The tourist influx soared as

A Year in Provence sold 500,000

ed into 17 languages and be-came a BBC television series starring John Thaw. While the series received a

drubbing from the critics in Britain, it went down very well in Japan, striking an escapist chord in a country where millions of people live in a congested urban environment. A lokyo travel agency organised £3,000-a-head tours of Provence and soon disciplined lines of Japanese tourists were filing

through local villages.
The author himself was finding life less than idyllic. Not only was he the butt of much criticism from French and British residents of Provence but many fectly acceptable to turn up at his home and ask for an autograph or even to look round. Mr Mayle has now moved to

the United States, huying a £1m house in a fashionable part of Long Island, New York.

"buzzing" the crowd with recordings of helicopter noise.
This campaign is led by a redoubtable woman, Elisabeth Murat, who moved from Paris 11 years ago to farm goats. It involves environmental groups, farmers, hoteliers, and expatriate Britons, Germans and Italians. They fear the loss of the very reason why they chose to settle in Provence: the landscape and the peace. They object lo the idea of a helicopter school, but they also contest the pessimism in Apt, producing figures to show that the military con-tributes far less to the local economy than tourism or second home-owners.
Brian Featherstone, a pro-

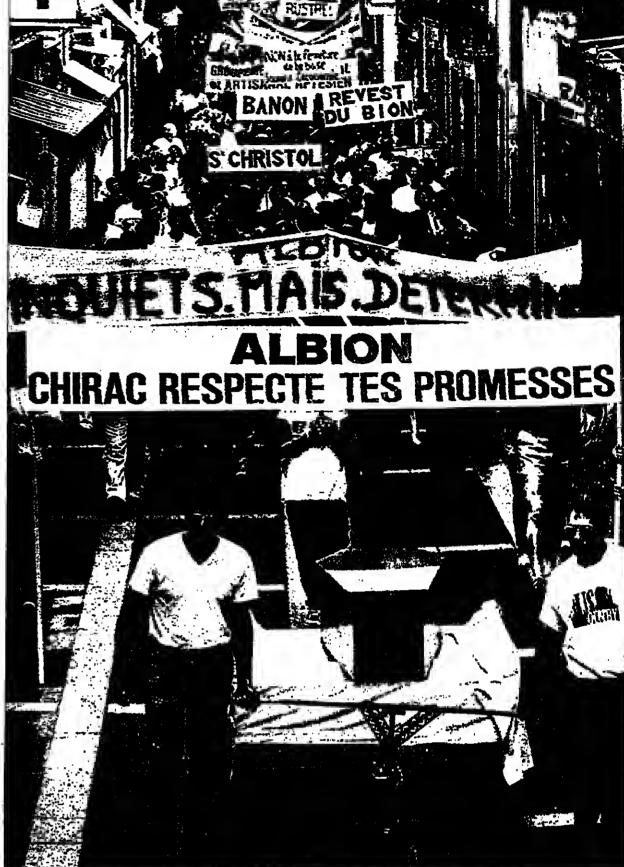
fessional interpreter and British member of the association, is concerned to stress that the group is not directed against the military. "I've lived alongside those missiles for the last 30 years. But belicopters flying day and night would ruin life, destroy the silence, which is what I came for and what I love. He believes, like Ms Murat, that other solutions are possible; a listening station, or a cinema

school and campus.

What this group does not want is anything noisy or polluting. "Aeroplane noise is very destructive to concentration, you can't relax even in your gar-den." said Angelica Garnett, a British artist living in Forcalquier, Yesterday, with straw bats much in evidence, several thousand people stood in searing sunshine to hear activists and politicians present their arguments, before

setting off for a mass picnic.
The "silence" argument is one to which the Apt campaigners are not insensitive. "We like silence as much as anyone, but we don't want it to be the silence of the grave," said Mr Trouchet.

Everyone is trying hard not to make too much of the divi-sions, at least in public; it would not be civilised, in such a landscape, and no one wants the real enemy, Paris, to get the idea that it can "divide and rule". Need ling comments, though, are tourists thought that it was per-relayed that tell of the mutual suspicion. One local man is quoted as saying: "Let the helicopters come, then maybe we'll get rid of the foreigners." The ADDPPA, for its part, is not averse to pointing out that when the arrival of the missile However, it would seem that base was mooted 30 years ago, peace is still eluding those who it was the people of Apt who



Lottery to fund World Cup bid

MICHAEL STREETER

The Government will pledge National Lottery money to support a British bid to stage the football World Cup in 2006, it

was revealed yesterday.

The Secretary of State for National Heritage Virginia Bottomley said that John Major was prepared to back any such proposal by the Football Association "all the way"

And holding out a vision of Britain as a focal point of international sporting events, she that said ministers were also prepared to fund a bid for the 2008 Olympic Games. The idea of bosting the

World Cup early in the next century has been mooted in British football circles for some munths. Many see the current three-week Euro 96 championship, which opened on Saturday, as preparing the route

However, both ministers and football officials are well aware

that any significant hooligan problem during the next few weeks could wreck plans for a

second tournament. The FA's Director of Public Affairs David Davies said that their overwhelming priority was to "ensure a successful festival of foothall" at Euro 96.

But he admitted any decision to go for the World Cup would have to be taken within the next few months and it was something that FA were keen to consider.

"There is no lack of adventure to press ahead with this at the right time, and the offer of help from politicians - financial or otherwise - will not be

Mrs Bottomley, writing in the Sunday Express newspaper, said: "The Prime Minister and I are determined that we don't have to wait another 30 years before we once again play host to the sporting nations of the



Bottomley: 2008 Olympics may also be targeted

bid for the World Cup in ten years' time - they say they are shortly to make a decision - this Government will back them all Carefully avoiding

"If the FA decide to make a figures, she added: "And if it

takes Lottery money to attract the Oympic Games to Britain in 2008 we are ready to spend Euro 96 would be a giant step towards having the World Cup. Already officials from some

Euro 96 was being played at eight of the most modern stadia in Europe, she said, and in ten years' time England would have a new national stadium to go with the £23m spent on redeveloping Hampden Park in Glasgow and the £46m allocated for the Millennium Stadium

The FA, who will decide on any bid by Christmas at the latest, would be probably competing with Germany to stage the 2006 tournament. It last hosted the competition in 1974 eight years after England. FIFA, the governing body, could also decide to hold the

event in Africa. France play hosts in 1998, followed by Japan and South Korea who are sharing the event in 2002.

Privately, the FA is confident that a smooth and hooligan-free

other nations see the current tournament as a role model and have contacted their Englisb counterparts to find out how it

is heing organised. Others see the timing of Mrs Bottomely's remarks as a nonetoo subtle attempt to milk the propaganda value of the current European championships to boost the Government's popu-

Yesterday the Labour MP Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the Commons National Heritage select committee, said he would welcome the World Cup in Britain as well as the 2008

But be said he was puzzled bow the Government thought that just pumping in money would bring the tournament here, especially as the new national stadium was already

being funded. Match reports, Sport Section | much easier" for there to be

Parents may veto plan for grammar schools

and JUDITH JUDD

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary uf State for Education, made it clear yesterday that parents. teachers and school governors would have a veto on the Prime Minister's plan for a "grammar school in every town.

The Government is expected to unveil plans to increase selection in schools in a White Paper to be published at the end of the month, and John Major wants to see the issue of selective education at the forefrant of the next election campaign.

But Mrs Shephard, who has lways been less keen, refused fully to endorse Mr Major's amhition to see a grammar school in every town. The proposals in the White Paper may very well result in just that," she told GMTV. She said the Government meant to make it "very

selective schools - but added where parents and teachers

and governors want it". Past experience has shown that, despite the superficial popularity of the idea of grammar schools, when parents are presented with a specific plan to introduce selection they reject it, as in Tory-controlled Solihull in the mid-t980s.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, sought to draw attention to the drawbacks of selection for the majority whose children would fail entrance exams. "We're not in favour of saying tu local people: You can't send your child to your neighbourhood secondary school because pupils have heen brought in from outside who have passed the exam', he said on BBC radio.

Mrs Shephard's comments will infuriate some of the Prime Minister's advisers and Tory party policy chiefs who are con-

vinced that greater selection is a vote-winner

The White Paper is expected to propose that ministers have the power to order local councils to set up new grammar schools - with the consent of parents and teachers.

Ministers are debating how the law could be changed to allow the Secretary of State for Education to impose grammar schools on local councils wherever a new school is proposed. The proposals would also give grant-maintained schools the right to select 50 per cent of pupils instead of the present 10 per cent. Local councils would continue to control admissions

policies for other schools. Mrs Shephard confirmed that the nursery education voucher scheme would go nation-wide next year, ensuring that all parents of four-year-olds will receive a voucher worth £1,100 in Fehruary.

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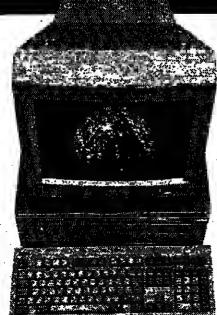
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Blair's new army are 'cautious modernisers'

JOHN RENIGUL Political Correspondent

If Tony Blair wins the next election, his new Labour MPs are likely to be overwhelming-ly pro-European, in favour of changing the voting system and prepared even to contemplate governing in coalition with the Liberal Democrats, according to a survey of Labour candidates.

The picture of an army of cau-tious modernisers runs counter to suggestions that Mr Blair would face turbulence from a parliamentary party dominated by left-wing Old Labourites. Of the 42 candidates out of

110 in safe Labour or target seats who responded to questions asked by Channel 4's A Week In Politics programme. two-thirds (27) said that "if othст European currencies establish a single currency Britain should join it. Only eight disagreed, while seven did not know or refused to answer.

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University study of Labour MPs, which found that older members leaving the Commons were more likely to be Eurosceptics, this survey suggests Mr Blair would have an unexpectedly free hand on the issue.

The survey found a clear majority (25) in favour of change to a more proportional system of electing MPs, with only 11 op-posed. This will further up the balance towards reform among Labour MPs, who in earlier studies have favoured reform by

Last week. Roy Hattersley, the former deputy Labour leader who is retiring at the next election, launched the "fightback" in defence of the existing "first past the post" voting system. But recent signs that Mr Blair favours limited change mean that the present system is unlikely to survive a Labour government. Labour's promise to hold a referendum on the issue will be included in the draft

dence from a Nottingham Trent manifesto expected to be approved by the party's National Executive later this month.

The survey of candidates also found they were evenly divided by the question, "Are there any circumstances in which Labour should form a coalition or have some kind of pact with the Liberal Democ-

rats?" Twenty said Yes, 17 No. Peter Mandelson MP, the Labour leader's close adviser, has suggested that Mr Blair should offer posts in his government to Liberal Democrats, even if he were to win a large majority. The survey suggests this might not be as totally unacceptable to in-coming Labour MPs as had widely been assumed.

Mr Blair's cautious line on income tax was echoed, with most (24) refusing to put a figure on what they thought the top rate should be. Four said it should be left at 40p in the pound, 13 said 50p and only one said "higher than 50p". More (16) said Labour should not "raise

taxes to pay for improved public services" than said it should do so (13), with 13 not saying. Only on education did tradi-

tional views dominate, with three-quarters wanting Labour to "end all forms of selection for entrance to state schools". This contrasts sharply with Mr Blair's speech last Friday, when he suggested that the few existing

selective schools would stay. Labour officials usually advise candidates not to take part in surveys - "most of them are a complete menace", a senior party source said yesterday. Which makes the New Labour flavour of this survey more surprising, as the more loyal candidates might not have taken part.

On one issue, however, Labour candidates are seriously out of line with their leader. Despite repeated warnings against complacency, all but four expected Labour to win a majority at the next election, with one-quarter (nine) predicting a majority of more than 60 seats.

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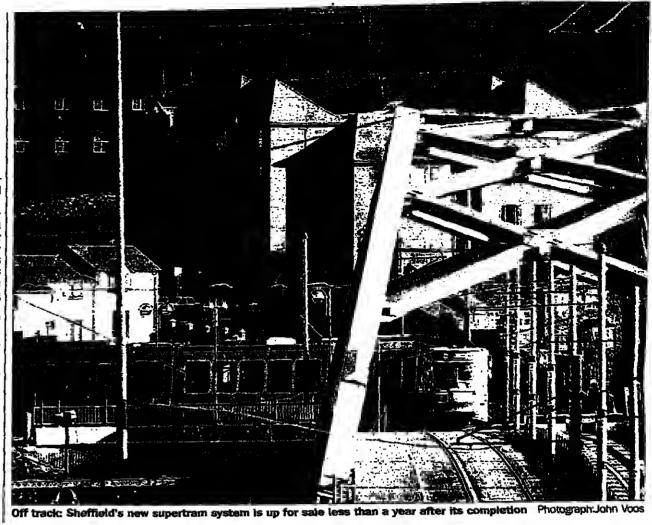
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Sheffield supertram falls victim to competition from cheap buses

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

For Sale, One tram system, one year-old, was £241m new. Offers well under £100m

The Sheffield Supertram, Britain's most modern system, is heing privatised despite the fact that it has flopped, carryanticipated, The system is owned by the local passenger transport executive which is controlled by four local councils - Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster who fear that council taxpayers will have to fork out huge sums to make up the losses.

The system is technically a great success and was built on factor of three or four.

time, but it has suffered under fierce competition from buses which have more stops and are much cheaper. Unlike Man-chester's new tram system, which incorporated existing rail lines and faces little hus competition, Sheffield's system is largely on the streets and trams

are often delayed by the traffic. The operation has also been criticised for a complex ticketing method, poor marketing and inadequate customer information systems. The trams have largely been running empty, apart from at peak times, while competing huses remain full. The initial target of having 22 million users each year by the turn of the decade is now reckoned to be over-optimistic by a

the finance, the councils had to horrow £80m as their share of the cost. The system began operation more than two years ago and was completed last October. Alex Ritchie, finance director of South Yorkshire Passen-

ger Transport Executive, said: We are looking to sell either the whole system, or just the operation as a franchise,"

Companies hidding for rail franchises, such as Stagecoach and Compagnie Générale des Eaux are expected to be interested in the sale as will the rolling stock companies which now own all the passenger trains. Advertisements asking for expressions of interest have just been published and a pre-

While European and govern-ferred bidder could be ment grants provided much of announced as early as this autumn, with the sale going through in the New Year.

However, there are doubts whether the sale price will be sufficient to pay off the money borrowed by the four councils to build the project and the PTE will be reluctant to sell below that price because it would leave a long-term debt of up to £100m with the councils. If the sale flops, then they may have to fork out money to keep

the system operating.
Sheffield's problems are a big blow for supporters of light rail systems and there are worries that plans for other tram networks around Britain will be stymied because of lack of

DAILY POEM

Summer Haiku

Translated by James Kirkup

The routes taken by these trickles of sweat - for me they are also words.

Takaha Shugyo

I'm listening to such a tragic story - while licking an ice cream.

Iwasaki Fukuko

Among the new leaves' abundant green, my child's first teeth start coming out

Nakamura Kusato

Somewhere around the stone Buddha, there are eggs of snakes

Ishida Hakvo

The world of haiku has five seasons and traditional haiku should contain an appropriate season word chosen from a saijiki, which is a thesaurus coverng the whole of Japanese history, customs and culture, writes James Kirkup. Summer in Japan is long and hot and humid, so "sweat" is a common choice. Iwasaki Fukuko lightens tragedy with a modern season word, "ice cream". The season's abundance of new foliages is associated in Nakamura Kusato's famous haiku with the unexpected image of a child's teething. Less poetic images - bedbugs, maggots, athlete's foot -also occur in summer haiku. Even with down-to-earth images, the ideal is to make the words sing, and to have good rhythm. Ishida Hakyo conveys the sinister atmosphere of brooding heat with the maturation of snake eggs.

James Kirkup is President of the British Haiku Society. His A Certain State of Mind: An Anthology of Classic, Moderna nd Con-temporary Japanese Haiku is published by the University of Salzburg Press.

Open jails to be closed or fenced

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

About three-quarters of all open prisons are to be closed or made more secure because an increasing number of criminals cannot be trusted in them, according to leaked Government documents. The Prison Service also intends to introduce a network of rehabilitation units to help offenders gain job skills before leaving jail.

In the biggest shake up of the open jail system since it was introduced in 1933 the Prison Service has recommended the closure of five prisons and the conversion of nine to more secure establishments. Official documents seen by the Independent show that of the 20 existing prisons housing category D inmates - 12 of which are exclu-

sively open - only six will remain. Inmates under 21 should no longer be kept in open conditions, the report by Tony Pearson, the service's director of Security and Programmes, says. He also proposes to build about 14 new resettlement units, where prisoners go to learn skills before they move back into the general community.

The moves follow a review of open and resettlement prisons, and the Prison Service is now drawing up an action plan to act upon the report's conclusions. The decision to reduce drastically the number of open pris-

ons from about 4,400 spaces to 1,900 has been prompted by a rise in the level of absconding and intrusions by prisoners convicted of violent offences and problems with drugs. In the year to March 1994, there were more than 1,100 instances of abscording from open establishments.

The changes also fit in with the belief of Michael Howard. the Home Secretary, that a tough regime is the best deter-

rent for would-be criminals. While accepting that open prison do have a role, the report states that in future short-term offenders should be kept in minimum security prisons, which would be fenced and have a secure induction unit. Only medium- and long-term prisoners who have passed a risk-assessment test and have served some of their sentence under closed conditions will be allowed in open jails. These fundamental points are not for further debate.7 Mr Pearson states in his

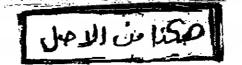
report sent to prison governors. Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, said of the proposals: "This is a logical consequence of the Home Secretary's obsession with austerity, his prison works policy, and

contempt of home leave. "The concept of the open prison remains a positive one. The erection of fences is regrettable but the extension of resettlement units is welcomed."

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Violence on Jews in decline across Europe

Anti-Semitism has peaked in Europe and appears to be declining especially fast in England, according to a survey of 61 countries. It has also become fissociated from general racism, which appears to be on the rise.

Anti-semitic incidents reported to the Board of Deputies of British Jews declined by 25 per cent last year to 246. And the authors of the Anti-Semitism World Report, published by Institute for Jewsh Policy, conclude that in Eastern Europe and Germany the upsurge in anti-Semitism that followed the fall of communism appears to have peaked. "The threat of anti-Semitism entering and domi-nating the political mainstream has receded there," said

Anthony Lerman, director of the institute.

Only in Sweden is this trend upset. The report says: "Sweden's reputation for tolerance is being increasingly marred by the country's neo-Nazi movement, which has never since the war been as confident as it is now. The level and quantity of of neo-Nazi propaganda, relative to the total population, is

Elsewhere, however, the report argues that there has heen a separation hetween xenophobia and anti-Semitism. The racist climate in many couotries was worsening.

Despite a growing awareness of its dangers on the part of govtaken to combat racism, and what is being done is clearly not having the desired effect.

"It is commonly assumed that heightened racism leads to an increase in anti-Semitism. But the evidence from 1995 does not appear to support this assertion," it says.

"Jews are not the primary targets of groups and movements which perpetrate racial vioharassment, intimidation, and public expressions of hatred ... anti-Semitic violence and harassment of Jews is only

a tiny fraction of racist violence. "Ideologically, anti-Semitism arguably remains the most deep-rooted and potent form of racism . . . But there is no sign that racist violence against Turks in German, or racial barassment of Asians in the UK is displacement activity for such actions against Jews." The European far-right par

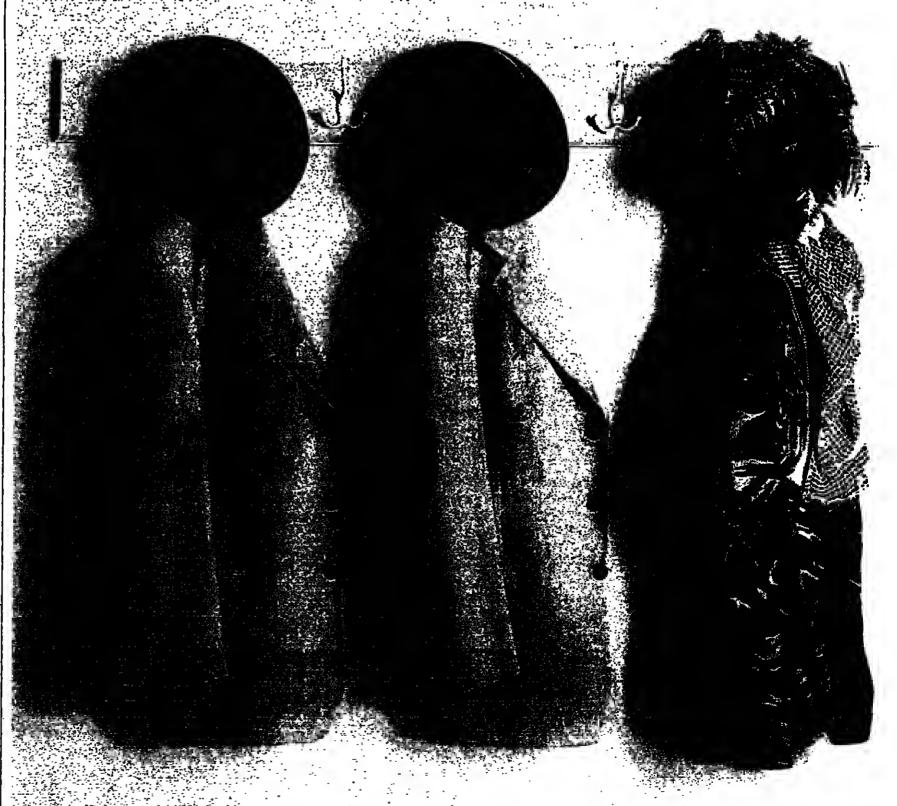
paganda continue to fail."

ties appear to have prospered only when they have sought re-spectability by rejecting overt anti-Semitism, says the report, citing the examples of the National Front in France, under Jean-Marie Le Pen, and Juerg Haider's Freedom movement in Austria. These groups damage Jewish interests only incidentally, the report argues. The Reformed Jewish Syna

gogues, which represent a mi-nority of Jews in Britain, were delighted by the fall in anti-Se-mitic activity. A spokesman said: "It is gratifying that the phenomenon is on the decline, even if this is no more than we



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to test patients Open jails to for cholesterol' dosed or feno

Doctors 'failing

British heart disease patients have the highest cholesterol levels in Europe but doctors are failing to reduce the risk by testing for it, a wide-ranging study has found.

Nearly three-quarters of people with coronary heart disease in the United Kingdom had high levels of cholesterol - almost double that of Spain, the lowest country in the survey. And despite high cholesterol being a well-known risk factor for coronary heart disease, more than 40 per cent of patients had not been tested for it. The UK also scored particularly badly on high blood pressure and failing to screen people with a family history of heart disease - two other common risks for coronary heart disease patients.

At the weekend, cardiologists at a commemorative Nobel Prize meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, warned that doctors are not practising "good medicine" by failing to identify common risk factors and patients' survival is being affected as a result.

At present I million Europeans die from coronary heart disease every 18 months and in Britain alone it is estimated there are 3.4 million sufferers. The findings of Euro-ASPIRE, a 10-nation study encompassing more than 5,000 coronary heart disease patients, revealed at the conference were Wood, the study's lead investi

The research looked at patients six months after admission to hospital and monitored six risk factors - smoking, obesity, blood pressure, cholesterol levels, diabetes and family history. As many as half of the patients had not had these factors effectively managed.

Around Europe, on average, nearly one in five cootinued to smoke and more than a quarter were obese. Nearly half had high cholesterol levels and a similar amount had mild to severe high blood pressure.
The UK had the worst rate

in Europe for high cholesterol with nearly three-quarters of patients having too high levels. Added to this, blood cholesterol levels are infrequently monitored and had not been measured previously in more than 40 per cent of cases.

Blood pressure levels were among the highest in Europe and we came second only to Finland in failing to screen people with a family history of heart disease. Just over 27 per cent of people were obese and 19 per cent continued to smoke.

Professor Wood said: "Despite the increasing scientific evidence of benefit from treating and controlling such risks, the survey shows a wide-spread lack of implementation of these straightforward measures by "surprising and disappointing", doctors at all levels."

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Union attacks 'downsize' guru

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

Stepben Roach, the American economics guru found guilty of coining the phrase downsizing", was yesterday accused of spawning a whole growth industry producing euphemisms

for sacking employees.

Despite the belated realisation by Mr Roacb that downsizing was not a business panacea, companies are still dismissing workers and using balf-baked expressions to describe the process.

One of the more ironic phrases was employed by IBM which told its employees who were surplus to requirements that they should think of it as "a career opportunity".

Another firm suggested that redundancy would enable its workers to get themselves out

With apologies to Paul Simon and his song "Fifty Ways to Leave Your Lover", the GMB general union yesterday produced a list entitled "Fifty Ways to Sack Your Worker".

Among the words encoun-tered by the union's officials to describe job losses were the rejatively familiar "rationalisa-"de-layering" "restructuring".

The terms also ranged from tbe supposedly subtle "democstreamlining" and "organisational realignment" to a more nentral description with a distinct whiff of the accountant about it: "Equalisation of the payroll to manpower requirement". Another company gave it a rather cumbersome title: "Production schedule rearrangement initiative". Union officials also encountered the grand but often-used: "Shaping

up for Tomorrow". There was the semi-apologetic "unfortunate depreciation of our greatest asset" and

the more accusatory "You've made yourself redundant" and "You ve priced yourself out of the market". One expression made up in honesty what it lacked in civility."FIFO - Fit in or F*** off".

Published to coincide with the union's annual congress, a report found that only one in 16 of new GMB members agreed that their job was secure. Eight out of 10 joined because of problems at work. The GMB general secretary John Edmonds predicted that unions would see their memberships increase. "Unions are seen as the only check against unscrupulous employers," be said.

The GMB was not the only organisation yesterday to vent its spleen over "downsizing". The Institute of Personnel and Development, whose members often preside over the whole redundancy process and habitually add to the euphemisms used to describe it, yesterday railed against job insecurity. An institute survey showed that only a quarter of British workers unreservedly trusted their organisations to keep

Geoff Armstrong, the IPD's director-general, said employ ees felt a sense of betrayal at the "ripping np of the psychologi-cal contract which governed relations between managers and employees". The implicit contract was based on the expectation that organisations would reward loyal staff with a

"World-class performance won't come from a climate of fear and instability. All the rhetoric about stakeholding is just bot air unless organisations are seen by their employees to be committed to long-term strategies for maximising employment opportunities"-or employing people as we used to

been extremely cunning and de-

termined it is only after the

event that you see what you

"We want to be accessible to

MOTOROLA

could bave done to stop it.



Blood test failing early detection of HIV virus'

MARTYN HALLE and LOUISE JURY

A blood test just introduced by Britain's transfusion service fails to detect a strain of HIV until much later than others, according to new research.

But the British authorities and the test's manufacturer last night dismissed fears that this could pnt blood recipients at risk and claimed the test was still at the top of the safety league for detecting the Aids virus.

The study carried out by the State Serum Institute in Copenbagen, Denmark, claims the test kit now being used in the United Kingdom performed poorly at detecting a type of the virus, known as HIV-2. Most tests for HIV will

However, Mr Gordon said he

was sure that the "highly pro-fessional" staff at the Tate

would be taking all the

appropriate safety measures in

after infection, which leaves a small "window" of risk in the first few weeks when the virus cannot be spotted.

The new test detects HIV-1. the most common form of the virus, at an early stage. But in the Danish study, it failed to detect HTV-2 until six weeks later than other kits. Blood service insiders said the problem meant infected blood could slip through the testing procedure
- which checks all donations because blood cannot be heattreated to kill HIV - putting patients at risk.

Dr Claus Bohn Christiansen, who carried out the study published in the international jourual, Vox Sanguinis, said: "I am very surprised that the British

using this kit because it isn't very effective at detecting the virus. "It raises the chance that someone infected with Aids could give blood and that it would not show until the virus

bad been in their body for more than two months." But Sue Cunningham, for the NBA in England and Wales, said the findings were based on one particular case. She added: There is a UK committee that looks at all the different tests that become available and this

is one that has been accepted."
"It is UK policy to accept the most up-to-date tests that have been evaluated by the manufacturers. This one is very good at picking up HTV-1. We don't get many cases of HIV-2"

Abuse reports warned of Clwyd paedophile ring

Warnings about the possibility of a paedophile ring operating around children's bome in North Wales and the North-west were given four years ago in 14 confidential and unpublished re-ports, at least one of which has been sent to the Welsh Office and other agencies. The unpublished reports looked at one local authority bome - Cartrefle, near Wrexham - and raised con-

cerns about widespread abuse. One of the reports obtained by the Independent says: "There remains worrying current instances of conviction and prosecution for sexual offences of persons who are known to have worked together in child care establishments both in the coun-

the North-west.

"These suggest firstly, that abuse could have been hap-pening unabated for many years and secondly, that there could be operating a league or ring of paedophiles who help one another find sources and situations where abuse can be perpetrated and the addiction fed." Many of the key findings in

two Cartrelle reports, which were written in 1990 and 1991 but which bave never published, are echoed in the subsequent Jillings report which calls for a public judicial inquiry into the events at children's homes in North Wales over two decades

The Jillings report says the team could not tackle some of the issues raised because of lack

suggestion that public figures may have been involved in the

abuse of young people in Clwyd," it says, Yesterday John Jillings, chair-man of the inquiry team, attacked on the way his report has been kept secret, adding: "I think it is unacceptable that none of the reports on child abuse in North Wales have ever been published."

Meanwhile, last night Mike Hall, the Labour MP for Warrington South, said that he would be asking for a full national inquiry into child care after the disclosure that 300 former residents had complained about abuse they suffered while in homes in the Cheshire area over a 20-year period.

Tate trustee admits security flaws

But such attacks were very hard to prevent, he said. "There is no such thing as perfect security and when someone has one seeks to take advantage of an institution that is playing a public role then it is very easy for them to do so."

scholars and the public. If some- the light of the alleged frauds.

MICHAEL STREETER

Public institutions such as art galleries find it virtually impossible to safeguard them-selves against "cunning and determined" art criminals, a senior figure at the Tate Gallery admitted yesterday.

Mr David Gordon, a trustee of the Tate, was speaking after the Independent revealed how detectives are investigating an elaborate fraud at the London gallery. Scotland Yard officers, who

have made several arrests, are examining claims that the Tate's own archives were altered to anthenticate forged works by artists such as Ben Nicholson. The forgeries were then sold. Mr Gordon, a former chief

executive of Independent Television News, said be and fellow trustees - who include Richard, now Lord Attenborough and Bamber Gascoigne - were told of the inquiry two weeks ago. The reaction was one of con-

cern that the level of sophistication of art thefts and frauds bas got to this point."

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Farm chief raises stakes in beef dispute

SARAH HELM

Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner, has ruled ont any chance that Britain might secure a timetable for the lifting of the beef ban, and has proposed tough new demands for a framework to ease the crisis.

In an interview with the Independent he also made clear there can be oo deal on how to lift the ban until Britain has halted its blocking tactics in Brussels. "Nobody in Europe can speak about a timetable at this

stage ... if the British present a framework as a kind of blank the latest sign that Britain's tactics in Brussels are not helping cheque, oobody will sign it." Britain's blocking policy had made it much harder for the EU

to make concessions on lifting the ban, he insisted. "Now, if we want to make a concession, people think we are doing it for political reasons because of pressure from Britain. They don't believe we are doing it because of the scientific evidence. This makes it harder to maintain consumer confidence and harder to ease the ban."

win allies over the crisis.

At the weekend, Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, said member-states were reaching "the limit of our possible tolerance" and that Britain could face years of diplomatic isolation.

Mr Fischler said Britain must meet three demands before any agreement can be signed: ■ The Government must accept stringent EU voting procedures each time another element of the ban is to be lifted. A pro-

posal to ease a new part of the ban would first be made by the European Commission on the basis of scientific evidence. This proposal would then be voted on by qualified majority, in the EU's standing veterinary committee. A further qualified ma-

jority vote would then be needed among EU agriculture ministers. It was this process which applied during the lifting of the ban on gelatine, tallow and semen, and which the Government had hoped it could bypass in future.

Before the framework can be

signed, Britain must have im-plemented, to the satisfaction of the Commission, its full eradication programme. In particular, the Commission is insisting all elements of the slaughter policy are in place and fully monitored and that Britain's animal

identification system is working. ■ The Government must also provide a more precise definition of the different phases it proposes for lifting the bao. Britain has opened negotiations suggested a 10-step process. Mr Fischler said Britain had provided only

will we be able to make process towards normalisation. We will see if the British come up with some good ideas."

He insisted the ball was in

Britain's court but did not rule

out achieving the framework be-fore the Flurence summit,

which begins in two weeks. But

he stressed: "This depends on

Britain providing the neces-sary new elements. Only then

The Foreign Secretary, Mal-colm Rifkind, will risk enraging Britain's EU partners further by

when foreign ministers meet in Luxembourg today. He will block dialogue with Syria, con-sidered crucial for the Middle East peace process after the right-wing Likud party won power in Israel.

blocking a number of initiatives

A deal intended to mend fences with Canada after last year's fish war and a decision releasing £2.4m for elections in Bosnia will also fall victim to the

British disruption policy. The "beef war" continues to inflame Conservative wounds oo Europe. Today Sir James state.

Goldsmith, the acti-EU hillinnaire, is to attend a meeting in debate Britain's Ell membership with Tory MPs including Alan Duncan, an aide to Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman.

Britain is proposing draconian limits on the number of days fishermen can out to sea rather than implement the cuts to the British fleet sought by the European Commission to protect

The plan is expected to meet resistance from every member-

Europe sends

warning shot to

Children vote Germany as 'most boring'

WILL BENNETT,

British children are strongly anti-German, associating Ger-many with the Second World War and voting it less attractive to visit than Bosnia, according to a survey published today. Despite the fact that the war

ended 35 years before even the oldest of the 10- to 16-yearolds interviewed were born, suspicion of Germany and its people were still widespread in the survey conducted in March. Wheo 800 schoolchildreo

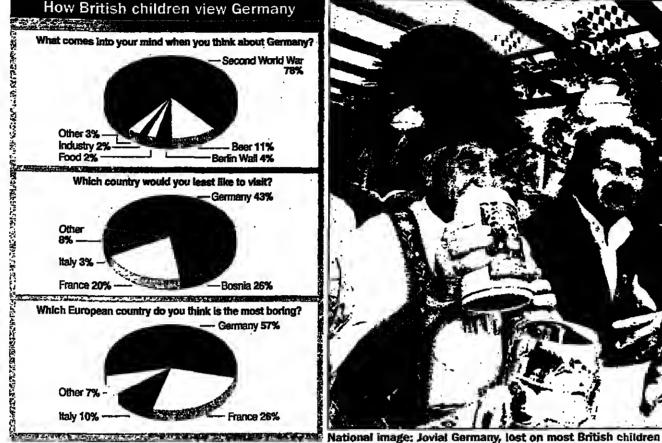
around Britain were asked about their attitudes towards Europe, 78 per cent associated Germany with the Second World War and half of those mentioned Hitler.

More positive associations such as good beer and economic success paled into insignifi-

When children were asked which country they would least like to visit Germany came first with 43 per cent, compared with 26 per cent for Bosnia, still suffering from the effects of the wars which tore Yugoslavia apart, and France with 20 per

They also voted Germany the most boring country in Europe by a huge margin. A total of 57 per cent plumped for Germany, compared with 26 per ceot for France, 10 per cent for Italy and 7 per cent for other countries.

In the survey, commissioned by Gestetner, which makes fax machines, laser printers and photocopiers, the oegative view of Germany was so overwhelming that almost one-third of children named it as Europe's poorest oation, ignoring the economic evideoce to the



While 28 per cent thought that the Germans were Europe's paupers, only 21 per cent said the Bosnians, the same number for the Spaniards, 16 per cent for the British and 14 per cent for other nations.

There is little comfort for Europhiles in the survey. While 94. per cent of children believed that the European Union would work better if its constituent na-

tions communicated with one another more, most want it oo British terms.

While half said that there should be a single European language, 87 per cent of those thought that it should be English with the only other con-tenders being French with 6 per cent support and Esperanto with 5 per cent.

favoured a single currency but 60 per cent of those said it should be sterling.

A European superstate was unpopular with 79 per cent against but there was widespread ignorance about which countries were in the EU. While most realised that Britain and Belgium are members, 41 per cent thought Australia had Two-thirds of youngsters joined and 37 per cent believed

that the United States had. Children's images of all na-

tions were based oo cultural clichés. France was associated with snails and frogs' legs - and Euro Disney. England with the Queen, Scotland with kilts and Wales with dragons.

Although 76 per cent thought of war when asked about Bosnia, and 55 per cent mentioned the IRA in relation to Northern Ireland, the stronges image was that of Belgium

which 92 per ceot associated

with chocolates. Wheee asked where they got most of their information about Europe from, almost half he childreo - 48 per cent - said television, while less than ooethird (30 per ceot) said school, 8 per cent said oewspapers and just 5 per cent said their parents.

beleaguered UK

The phnocy war is over. Britain's campaign of non-cooperation with the European Uoion over the beef export ban is entering a live-bullets phase. The next 11 days up to the EU summit in Florence on 21-22 June are fraught with dan-ger for the Prime Minister and for Britain's place in the EU.

The warnings given at the weekend by the European Commission President, Jacques San-ter, and, by the European Agriculture Commissioner, Franz Fischler, in his interview with the Independent, represent a serious escalation of the crisis. Why? For two reasons. First-

ly, we have lost the sympathy and support of the European Commission, which has been playing on our side until now, Secondly, the comments

made in Brussels suggest that there is a growing determination on the Continent to deny the Prime Minister any political benefit from the dispute.

At this stage in any Euro-crisis, the EU is politically programmed to seek a compromise. By the nature of any 15-nation institution, a compromise is something which all sides can take home and call a victory. In John Major's case, he desperately needs either a real victory (which seems unlikely) or something which he can con-vince the Tory right-wing and the Euro-sceptic British press

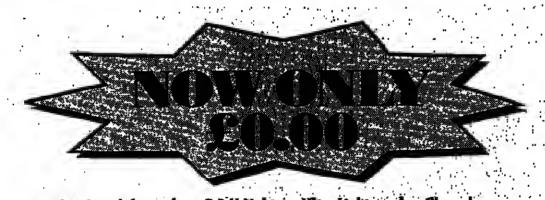
amounts to a victory. The clear message from the Commission over the weekeod is that the rest of Europe is de-

termined to deny Britain even the semblance of a victory. Both Mr Samer and Mr Fischler make it clear that no further progress can be made towards lifting the beef han unless Britain abandons its block-ing tactics. Mr Fischler also warns that there will be nn easy agreement on step-by-step proposals for lifting the han and certainly no specific timetable, Last week Malenlm Rifkind,

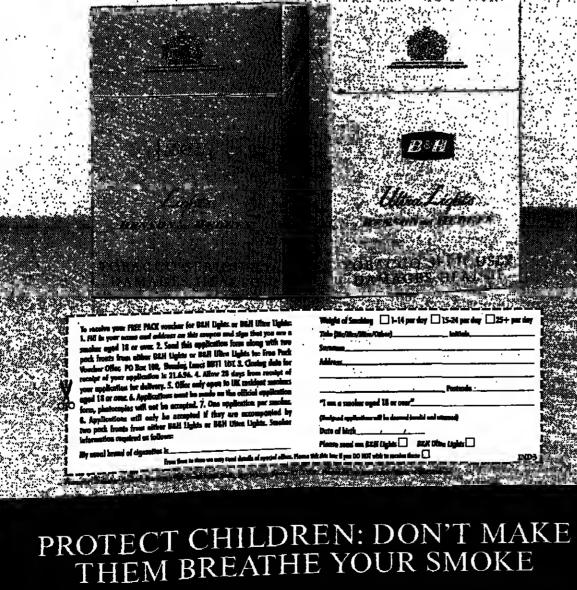
the Foreign Secretary, claimed a first step towards victory when the Italian government - now holding the EU presidency agreed to propose a framework for the gradual lifting of the beef ban. The implication was that the Government hoped to wrap up a vague outline agreement and declare vic-tory before or during the Florence summit, This would have been a classic EU exit from a political swamp of this kind.

But the statements over the weekend suggest that the Commissinn, and other governments, have closed ranks and will try to force the Government to back down publicly. This may be politically impossible for Mr Major. The prospect, two weeks into the beef war, is for a prolonged stand-off, or an escalation by the Government, with uncertain consequences for Britain's future in Europe.

John Lichfield



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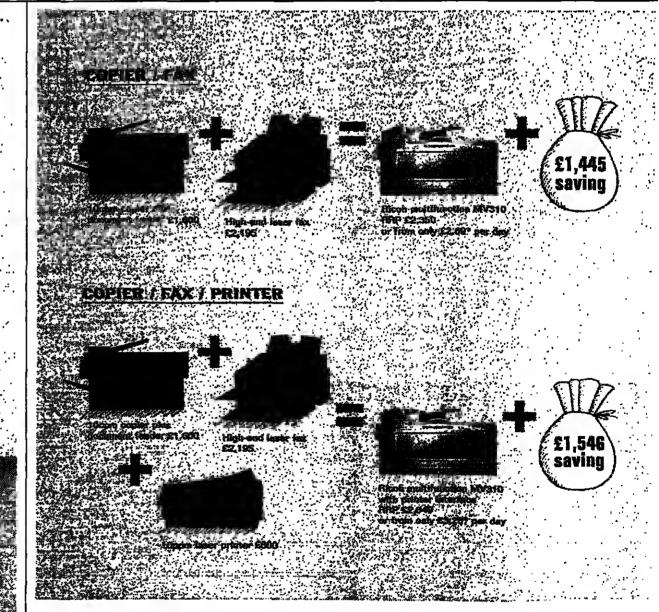
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international

Peace at the crossroads: Arab League to meet for first time since Gulf war as region is plunged into flux

Horror of Netanyahu heals Arab divisions

PATRICK COCKBURN

The last time the Arab League held a summit meeting, the Iraqi delegate hurled his food at his Kuwaiti counterpart who spread belief that the Oslo ac-promptly fainted and had to be cords will at best be deep-frozen carried from the room. That was just after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, six years ago. The League bas not met since.

But, prompted by Binyamin Netanyahu's victory in the election in Israel, Arab leaders, with the exception of Iraq, have decided to come together again. Meeting in Damascus at the weekend, President Hafez al-Assad of Syria, Crown Prince Abdullah of Sandi Arahia and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt have called for a summit in Cairo in two weeks time.

The crisis for the Arab states is oot on the scale of the invasion of Kuwait, but there is a growing fear that the Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestinians are about to fall apart, "Any retraction by Israel oo the basis of the peace process ... represeots a real threat of returning the region to the cycle of tension and vio-lence," reads the final statement from Damascus.

Relatives of the 101 Lebanese killed by Israeli shells at Qana in April, or the fami-tanyahu is a simple one: He

Palestinian suicide-bombers in Israel in February and March, might be surprised to learn the cycle of violeoce ever weot away. But in Israel and the Arab world there is now a widespread belief that the Oslo acunder Mr Netanyahu and at worst, start to unravel.

The course of events will depend in part on Mr Netanyabu's real political character, which is still obscure in spite of the election. Is he an archmanipulator, or a committed ideologue? Nobody in Israel knows. His government's policy guidelines, as leaked to the press, suggest that he will say no to compromise oo Jerusalem, no to a Palestinian state and no to restraint on the expansion of Israeli settlements.

But even if he wanted to, can Mr Netanyahu compromise? His promises on Jerusalem, Palestinian statehood and settlements were very specific in the election. He is flanked by the religious right and friends of the settlers, such as General Ariel Sharon, the architect of his victory at the polls. To appease the US they might compromise over withdrawal from Hebron, but not over

matters of principle. The problem for Mr Ne-



Cast off: A Palestinian farmer stands by his land, which has been selzed and fenced off by the Israeli settlement of Ariel

dictory promises. He says will provide better personal security for the ordinary Israeli and at the same time make no concessions to Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader. But the two objectives are linked. Danny

Rubinstein in the daily Haaretz

writes that Mr Arafat "does not

Israel's loyal cop, the hunter of Hamas, as he has been in recent months." He could let Hamas and Islamic militants back on the streets of Gaza, which will lies of the 59 people killed by cannot deliver to voters be-inevitably mean more suicide at-

tacks on Israel. With oo concessions from

Israel Mr Arafat will probably have no choice but to do just that. Palestinian public opinion simply will not accept a clampdown on Islamic militants if Israel reneges on the next stage of Oslo. And if more bombs do go off, Mr Netanyahu has promised to send the army in hot pursuit into autonomous Palestinian enclaves, such as Gaza, or Nablus. Even if pursuit was in the shape of covert operations rather than a mass invasion, the 30,000 police and

troops loyal to Mr Arafat would fight and there would be retaliatory bombings in Israel. In this confrontation, Israel's newly forged links with the Arab world would be a certain

Despite his victory in the election, Mr Netanyainu's fate is linked to that of Mr Arafat. In his one television debate with Shimon Peres, his defeated rival, he accused him of leaving "the security of our children in the hands of Arafat." There was could scarcely reply that co-op- also unlikely that he would live

eration with the Palestinian Authority was the only realistic way of stopping suicide bomhers who require little equipment, or training, other than a willingness to die.

Some Palestinians and Israelis argue there are alternatives to this bleak scenario. In one view. Mr Arafat will become a complacent Palestinian chief Buthelezi, enforcing Israeli rule in a Palestinian Bantustan. But Mr Arafat in the past ocver allowed himself to become some truth in this. Mr Peres somebody else's catspaw. It is

very long if he tried.

There is also an optimistic

view that Mr Netanyahu will prove to be Israel's General de Gaulle, deftly using his right wing credentials to reach an accommodation with the Palestinians, just as the French leader did in Algeria. But there is little sign of it. Indeed, the parallel is ominous, because the one Israeli politician resembling General de Ganlle was Yitzhak Rabin, the former chief-ofstaff, murdered in November

spite Spain's generals deserted by the conscripts

ELIZABETH NASH Madrid

The military flypast left hanners of scarlet and gold smoke hanging in the cloudless sky over Madrid and sent the city's swalkws flitting for cover as Spain celebrated its Armed Forces Day vesterday. Unbowed by the fearsome

sun, the band played while ar-moured vehicles drove past King Juan Carlos and Queco Sofia, the Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar, his ministers and military top brass. The Queeo fanned herself furiously as gor-geously arrayed troops marched

But behind the glinting medals and silken sashes lies the sombre reality that conscript soldiers are marching off the pa-rade ground at a rate that, if unchecked, could leave Spain

without an army.

The Government plans to abolish military conscription. the hated mili, within six years. But it may reach the target sooner than it wanted. Spiratling numbers of young conscripts are declaring themselves insumisor - conscientious objectors - and

simply leaving.

The new Government announced to mid-April that it planned to professionalise the armed forces completely by 2002. The number of insumisos that bad stood at 6,000 a month from January to April rose to 3,200 after the announcement and to 9,000 in May.

A pledge to reduce the length of military service from the resent nine months to six durng the current parliament will increase the need for even more recruits, but is hardly likely to deter legions of young-sters from going awol before they are called up.

Seeking to stave off further defections in the ranks, the

Defence Minister, Eduardo Serra, has announced a puckage of economic proposals designed to tempt new recruits and to avert the prospect of Spain's generals being left without sol-

diers to command.
In his first parliameotary speech as minister, Mr Serra confessed to worries that the transition to a professional force might charge out of control and be brought to its knees by an avalanche of conchies.

Measures under consideration include increasing the conscript wage to 30,000 pesctas (£150) per month, waiving income tax for families while their sons are serving their mili. and giving preferential access to public sector jobs to those who had done their duty to their king and country.

Spain has been debating for years about whether to have a mixed professional-plus-cooscript army or a purely professicoal hody. Public opinico favoured the professionals, but the previous Socialist government opted for a mixture because it was cheaper.

Conscientious objection has long been a source of tension in Spain, particularly in the oationalist Basque Country and Catalonia. Uotil recently an insumiso who refused to undertake community service in lien could face imprisonment.

Italy buries old animosity Greenpeace challenges for EU deal with Slovenia | China on nuclear test

Slovenia should have been the easiest of the former Eastern Bloc countries to bring into the European fold. Since it won its independence from the former Yugoslavia in a 10-day war in 1991, it bas rapidly established itself as one of the front-runners in central Europe, moving rapidly to democracy and a market economy, such that it is considered a leading conteoder for membership in both the EU and Nato. It conducts more than two-thirds of its trade with the EU, shares borders with Italy and Austria, and has a higher per capita income than either Greece or Portugal.

Today, it will apply for membership of the European Union, the latest io a long live of states to sign up for membership. And yet the association agreement with the EU which Janez Drnovsek, the Prime Minister, and Zoran Thaler, the Foreign

four years in the making - four years marred by Italian obstructionism, neo-Fascist sabrerattling and, latterly and most

surprisingly, British mad cows. The fact that the agreement is being signed at all is largely thanks to the oew centre-left Italian government, which has wasted no time in lifting a longstanding veto against an accord. Until now, Italy has refused to countenance an associatioo agreement because of a property dispute stretching back to the inter-war years when the Istrian peninsula was under Italian rule. The veto was most vigorous-

ly pursued by the 1994 govern-ment led by Silvio Berlusconi, which also included members of the neo-Fascist National Alliance. On one occasion the National Alliance's leader, Gianfranco Fini, led a rally on the Italy-Slovenia border in which hundreds of bottles were thrown into the sea bearing the message: "Istria, Dal-

bourg has been an exeruciating matia and Fiume - we will taking office, the new number | TERESA POOLE

Such nostalgia for the days of Italiao expansionism under Mussolini gravely damaged Italy's relations with its Balkan oeighbour, and isolated the country within the EU. It also complicated negotiations oo what is a geouine property dispute. Claims have been outstanding for years on thousands of homes in the Istrian peninsula that were abandoned in the . early 1950s by Italians who preferred to move back within their country's oew borders rather than be absorbed into Tito's Yugoslavia

Slovenia offered compensa tion as early as 1983, but Mr Berlusconi's government demanded outright restitution, a demand that Slovenia flatly rejected as a covert attempt to flood Istria with a new wave of Italian nationalists.

Since the fall of Mr Berlusconi's government, the problem has inched towards a solution. At the end of May, days after

two at the Foreign Ministry, Piero Fassino, hammered out a deal in Ljubljana obliging Slovenia to allow foreigners to buy up property on its soil within four years and securing special rights for Italians once resident there. The compensation issue will be addressed once the EU associ-

ation agreement is in place.
It was impressively speedy diplomacy, not only because it cleared one of the EU's longeststanding problems, but hecause it happeoed under an Italian EU presidency. "The first thing we have achieved is to bring Italy out of its isolation," Mr Passino said this weekend.

Right to the last, however, the affair risked ending in tears. Even after Mr Fassino's coup. the accord almost ran aground because of Britain's noo-cooperation on EU business. But last week Italy - once again promised to belp Britain in its campaign to lift the beef ban, and in exchange Britain agreed to save the Slovenia accord.

Anti-nuclear protesters oo a Greeopeace ship are steaming towards Shanghai this week, in a move which leaves the Chioese Navy with the difficult decision of how to deal with such a situation.

Peking's latest ouclear test, conducted on Saturday, has prompted an international outrry, despite China's new commitment to bold just one more test before September and then join an indefinite moratorium on ouclear testing. The Greenpeace ship left

Manila on Saturday and is carrying about 32 people from 12 countries. It is scheduled to approach Shanghai on Wednesday. The journey had been planned before the latest Chinese test and the timing was a coincidence, although it had been known that a test was due.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has asked Greenpeace, which is about to open an office in Hong Kong, to abandoo the more immediate public relamission, and the embassy in the Philippines refused permission

to enter Shanghai.

Over the past week, China has apparently shown some signs of bowing to world pressure over its ouclear tests. Last week, in New York, it dropped its position that "peaceful" nuelear explosions be exempt from the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty oow under oegotiation, and due to be signed in September at the United Nations General Assembly. On Saturday, it announced it would

scribing to the moratorium. Since France completed its controversial tests in January, China has been the only country testing. Previously China had hinted it might not stop testing until the treaty was ratified.

hold one more test before sub-

Now, for the first time, China has announced its final test in advance, and analysts said Peking appeared to be trying not to upset the September signing. The Greenpeace ship poses a tions challenge for China's governmeot, which has to decide how to keep it out of Chinese waters; China's coastal patrols are not known for subtlety. Last August, China deported eight Greenpeace activists, including two photographers, over an anti-nuclear protest in

Tiananmen Square. While foreign ministries around the world at the weekend denounced Peking for its latest test, most analysts said that, if China sticks to its plan for one last blast, it will have carried out fewer than expected, The latest explosion con-

ducted at the Lop Nor site in Xinjiang province, is China's 44th test, and China maintains it needs one more "to ensure the safety of its nuclear weapons". China has carried out far fewer tests than any other

nuclear power. Negotiations over the test han treaty have to be completed by a 28 June deadline if it is to be ready for signing in September.



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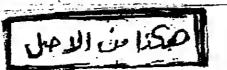
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Despite critics, UN chief tipped to hold on

: news was broken last week the gossip page of a New k tabloid Bourros Bourrosister of Norway, Gro Harlem
Brundtland, and a current UN
official Kofi Appen from ry-General, is a goner. His

David Usborne looks at the likelihood of another term for Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN Secretary-General

official, Kofi Annan, from year term is up at the end Ghana. Al UN parties and in us year and the Americans the delegates' canteen it has e decided to cast him into become fairly much the only vion. (This intelligence, by vay, came by way of an overtopic of conversation. rd conversation between omats at a popular Sunday

ich spot). he columnist may have emboldened by a tide of ulation in recent days about ible successors. They inthe Irish President, Mary nson, who is to visit to New tomorrow, the Prime Min-

is taken behind the closed doors of the Security Council, Any hopeful must have American support, or they are sunk.

For now, only two questions matter. Does Mr Bontros-The speculation is made more intense by the mystery-Ghali, a former Egyptian for-eign affairs minister, who will be be 74 this November, want anfilled manner in which a Secretary-General is chosen. There is no open competition or inother five-year term? And, howterview process. It is not even ever deep the distaste for Mr Bontros-Ghali may be in Wash-ington - on Capitol Hill he is clear sometimes whether a candidate is running or not. Instead, major governments manoeuvre and confer and finally, some Boo-Boo Ghali - does President Bill Clinton care enough actu-

answers to neither of these.

When Mr Boutros-Ghali arrived in New York, he confided to colleagues that had he been offered the job five years earlier, when the UN was still locked in the paralysing polar-ity of opposing superpowers, he would not have taken it. But at that moment, at the start of 1992, the place seemed to have real purpose. The Cold War was over and the UN had directly assisted in resolving crises rang-ing from the Iran-Iraq war, the

Lebanon and in giving inde-pendence to Namibia. "Never before in its history has the United Nations been so action-oriented, so actively engaged and so widely expected to respond to needs," he wrote in

a 1992 report.

No such optimism is appropriate today. On his watch, the UN has suffered serial humiliations, beginning with a botched mission in establish democracy in Somalia. Little glory will be granted the UN in future his-

the organisation, lest we forget, has sunk into crippling penury. Much of this is not directly

the fault either of the UN or of its Secretary-General. Mr Boutros-Ghali cannot force the US to cough up its \$1.3bn in debts. Nor was he shy in protesting about the hopeless nature of the UN's mission in Bosnia, where the line between peace-keeping and peaceenforcing became impossibly blurred. Even so, the Secretary-General has earned a reputation

stiffness before the press.

"I think there is a real chance that he will not get the second term," said a former Assistant Secretary-General, domenico Picco, "He inherited a UN that was at the peak of a

wave and what is it now?" The balance of speculation remains, however, that Mr Boutros-Ghali will stay if he wants to. The British, who were embarrassed in 1991 when they made plain their lack of enthusiasm for the Egyptian only to be outmanocurred in the Sekeep a low profile. For President

furthest fringes of his electionyear radar. It is commonly believed that the White House will ignore the issue until after the presidential poll in early November. In the meantime, Mr Boutros-Ghali has the firm support of most of the developing world as well, among Security Council members, of China, France and probably Russia.

Nor, finally, can it be said that great excitement has been stirred in Washington or New York by any of the names now surfacing as alternative contenders - including that of the

issian elections: The man behind Yeltsin's main rival still worships Russia's terrible dictator

Halin's lisciple ongs to aint the wn red

oly Lukyanov was never a o accept setbacks lightly. y five years ago, dismayed toppling of the Soviet 1, he led a coup against his colleague, Mikhail Gor-v. It failed and he ended

fortunes in Russian polhange fast and the vetermmunist has risen anew. days he is a close advis-Gennady Zyuganov, the nunist leader challenging Yeltsin for the presiden-Sunday's election. And he is in defiant mood. months, the analysts have striving to find out what -f Communist, or nation-Eyuganov is, to assess foold happen were he to

us entourage they have some moderates who ttle resemblance to their -era predecessors. But do not include the 66dd Mr Lukyanov.

protégé of the hardline leader, Yuri Andropov, as chairman of the me Soviet. He has long described by the pron Moscow newspapers ne eliché "diehard"; nothhis more recent past juschanging the phrase. r does he brook any

stion that his leader, Mr mov, to whom he talks t daily, is all that different. yuganov does not have in common with Eurosocial-democrat Comits. "He was and stays a nunist," Mr Lukyanov sitting in his office in the an Duma (lower house of ment), in which he is a ig member of the majormmunist faction .

e is realistic, rather than dox. But even if he wantbe a social democrat, there longer a middle class in a, so the social conditions ocial democracy do not Instead, we have an abyss abbe rich and the poor."



Chechens wail for hardliners' murder victim

KURT SCHORK Reuter

Urus-Martan - More than 1.000 Chechens turned out in driving rain vesterday to mourn a district administrator shot dead by unknown gunmen over the weekend in an assassination heavy with political overtones.

Friends and relatives praised Yusup Elmurzayev, 40, for sav-

Russian polls have recently

indicated that Mr Yeltsin's

grandiose campaign, combined

with profligate spending on so-

cial issues, is paying dividends.

A poll by the Moscow Times and

CNN this weekend put the Pres-

ident almost 20 points ahead,

with 34.5 per cent against Mr

that the Communist-nationalist

coalition behind Mr Zyuganov

concedes that it has hotched its

campaign. But Mr Lukyanov

Rumours are circulating

Zyuganov's 15.9 per cent.

from destruction by steering a difficult path between Chechen separatists and the Russian army during 18 months of fighting. Chechen men danced in a circle near the body, clapping their hands and chanting rhythmic prayers. Women wailed as rain whipped across a muddy

predicts that Communists will

take 70 of the 89 regions in the

first round. "Our method is

completely different. We go

from person to person, face to

own. Zyuganov has a party of

500,000 members. And we have

a coalition, a bloc of more than

200 organisations who mostly

work in the provinces, among

the people. The results of this election won't be determined in

Moscow or St Petersburg; it will

"Yeltsin has no party of his

face, door to door.

standing five deep. Elmurzayev, who worked in ing the town of Urus-Martan local government body sup-

ported by Russia, was killed with three bodyguards as he was driving to work on Saturday. This was nothing more than

terrorist act by the Dudayev-Yandarbiyev faction who are determined to kill off every Chechen who supports real democracy," said Shapa Gucheyev, 57, the uncle of the plaza surrounded by mourners

be made in the provinces, where

be misplaced. The Commu-

nists could yet take the lead in

the first round. And, if no one

wins more than 50 per cent of

the vote, Russia will have to wait

for three weeks before the sec-

ond round. There is plenty of

time for a damaging flare-up in Chechnya, or a health scare in

the Kremlin, plenty of time for

But if the Communists do

Mr Yeltsin'a star to fade .

Mr Lukyanov's faith may not

Dzokhar Dudayev declared his region independent in 1991

we work."

and Russia sent troops in to crush its independence in 1994. Killed in a rocket attack in April, Dudayev was succeeded by Zelimkhan Yandarhiyev.

Gucheyev and others like him in Urus-Martan are convinced that rebels killed the administrator both to frighten those who work for what the separatists view as quisling local governments and to upset the coming elections.

founder, it will be partly because

they failed to expand their base from their often elderly provin-

cial party loyalists. Too many Russians will have been put off

by a fear nf a return to the past.

Why, then, do the Communists

not renounce the past and the

Put that question to Mr Lukyanov and he denies that

many millions died under Stal-

in. He even argues that the

bloodshed and suffering under

Mr Yeltsin has been far worse

terrors of Stalin?

A discreet minority al the fu neral said Russia was behind the attack. This was not Chechens, it was Russian counter-intelligence, trying to upset the peace talks," one man said.

"The Russians are trying to divide the Cheehen people hy hlaming our fighters ... As for the elections, hardly anyone among the Chechens is going to vote anyway so what difference will they make?"

than it was under Stalin. "Stalin was a patriot, no-one can deny that," he said. "He wasn't a Western-minded detailed plot against him was uncovered by the police. Mr Valdivieso, a lawyer from person. No one can say Stalin

destroyed our industry - be re-Such rhetorie is common in Russia, where Stalin's success in creating a nuclear industrial power is still revered. But, when they come from the lips of a man close in a possible future president, they leave a partic-

Drug barons' scourge wins people's hearts

The look at, he is a kind of Columbian Colombo. Alfonso Valdivieso, Colombia's Prosecutnr-General, stands 5ft 4in, usually looks as through he forgot to comb his hair and has the same terrier-like approach as the dishevelled television

Like Inspector Colombo, Mr Valdivieso is popular for his relentless pursuit of the bad guys and a tendency to come up with "just nne more thing". Unlike the television character, his enemies are larger than life, powerful and dangerous. He is actually more of a Colombian

After two years of investigating the extent of cocaine cartel-money in Colombian polities, even charging the Presi-dent, Ernesto Samper, with involvement, Mr Valdivieso, 46, has become a national hero.

Colombians say he would be a shoo-in for president in the 1998 elections if he could stay alive. That is not an easy task. As Mr Valdivieso once remarked, there is only one good thing about being a Colombian state prosecutor; you don't get bothered by many life-insurance

In the last 15 years, since cocaine took over from coffee as Colombia's leading export, hundreds of lawyers and judges have been killed and or bought off. Others have fled the country. You might recall one of Mr Valdivieso's predecessors as Prosecutor, General, Mnnika Greiff, in the late Eighties. After a brief stint as a world famous hero, Mrs Greiff was forced to flee amid death threats and now lives incogni-

to in the United States. Death threats have become such a part of Mr Valdivieso's life that he probably couldn't sleep without them. Recently he whisked his family to Florida for a few days after a particularly

the city of Bucaramanga, served as a congressman for the Libcral Party for 10 years and was Education Minister in the government of Cesar Gaviria in the early Nineties. When he was appointed Prosecutor-General in 1994, Colombians expected a traditional "grey man", either

LOCAL HEROES

Alfonso Valdivieso

bought off by the cocaine cartels, or not about to commit suicide by chasing them. The prediction could not have been

more wrong. Some say it was the assassi nation of his crusin. Luis Carlos Galan, in 1989, which first pushed Mr Valdivieso to go after the drug lords. Mr Galan almost certainly would have become president, but was gunned down while he was campaigning. The word was that Mr Galan had refused to

lake the drug barons' shilling. Mr Valdivieso was littleknown until late last year. That was when President Samper's former campaign managers. Santiago Medina and Fernando Botero, announced that the President's 1994 election campaign had solicited and received funds from the Cali cocaine cartel. Few Colomhians were shocked and few

expected anything to be done. They were wrong. Mr Valdivieso realised that what the Medellin cartel had tried to do in the 1980s - to control politicians through violence - the Cali cartel was dning more subtly through multi-million pay-offs.

After a stubborn investigation, he walked into the Bogota offices of Congress's so-called Accusations Committee on February 14 with a Valentine's Day present: a pile of documents and videotapes which he said contained enough to charge the President.

Mr Samper was charged with illegal enrichment (taking around £4m from the Cali cartel), electoral fraud and a cover-up. He is facing possible impeachment proceedings in Congress but refuses to resign.

Valdivieso is the most popular person in Colombia right now, because he represents integrity, honesty and justice." said Noemi Sanin, a leading member of the opposition Conservative Party.

Phil Davison

ustol con ou serve best? Work smarter not just harder

US acts to halt church attacks

RUPERT CORNWELL

Janet Reno, the US Attorney-General, held talks yesterday with a delegation of black pastors whose churches have been set ablaze, as President Bill Clinton urged new laws to speed prosecution of those responsible for the wave of arson causing fear and racial tension across a swath of the South.

Speaking two days after the latest blaze, which reduced a 93year-old wooden sanctuary in Charlotte, North Carolina to ashes, Mr Clinton gave his hacking to legislation before

church-burning a federal crime, enabling investigators to go after it across state lines.

Devoting his entire weekly radio address to the issue, Mr Clinton said that thus far there was no evidence of a "national conspiracy" behind the burn-ings, 30 of which have occurred across the old Confederacy since 1995, the bulk of them concentrated in Louisiana, South Carolina, Alabama and Tennessee. But clearly, "racial hostility is the driving force be-

hind these incidents" For older Americans the spate of arson summons mem-oces of the grimmest days of the civil-rights struggle, as Ku Klux



Klansmen and other white su-

premacists tried to hold back de-

segregation by intimidation and terror. Then as apparently now,

was "grave". Deval Patrick, the Assistant Attorney-General, said yesterday, ooting that cases thus far solved showed that some individuals had carried out "pockets" of separate fires in a

have been found on suspects.
In the past fortnight the force
of FBI and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agents assigned to the investigation has been doubled to 200, while Nationsbank, one of the biggest

hlack churches were a pre-ferred target.

banks in the South, is offering embarrass the administration.

S500,000 (£330,000) for infor
Doubts moreover abound The mood of race relations mation leading to the arrest of

But the black community is far from convinced political parties have the will to act, especially in an election year. Though Bob Dole, the preparticular region. In some of them, Klau symbols were daubed across the rubble, in others Klan membership cards of hate", the Republican-controlled Congress has displayed scant interest in the issue - just one day of perfunctory hearings last month, compared to weeks of public investigation into Whitewater, the Waco siege and other subjects calculated to

among blacks about the sincerity of the ATF, widely dis-credited by the "Good Old Boys Round-Up" in Tennessee, where past and present agents of the bureau were filmed making racial taunts and gestures. Some ministers whose churches have been burnt say their parishioners were treated not as victims hut suspects by the ATF men, to the point of being forced to undergo lie-detector tests. But, said Mr Patrick, we're going to solve every one of these fires" and if a conspiracy existed, "we're going to get to the bottom of it".

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS : (')'

Leaders of Poland's Solidarity trade union
Leaders of Poland's Solidarity trade union
appose the planned closure of the Gdsnak shippard,
birthplace of the union. The closure was amounced at the
weekend by the privatisation minister. Wieslaw Kacmarck,
who said the government could no longer continue baling
out the yard, which is more than 5 fillon (£66m) in debt, He
said the yard, which is 60 per cent owned by the
government, would have to file for bankrupter, but a said the yard, which is 60 per cent owned by the government, would have to file for bankrupter, but a successor company would be set up to complete five ships under construction. Although the former Communist-led-government said the decision was taken on economic grunds, Solidarity officials said it was aimed at weakening the power of the union one of the main opposition forces. The former president Lech Whites, who lameled the proposed shudows as an amount and Advise Bridge

C hina has freed another promisent solitical prisoner, but has again shows that completing a jail term does not necessarily mean real freedest. Ren. Wanding, jailed for his rule in the 1986 pits danocracy movement, yesterday completed his least one tentence. Mr Ren. 51, was escorted by police to his feeling home, but within hours had left with a relative for Danas, a north-east port city. His wife said he was especied to be away 15 days, and she "had no choice" but to agree, Last month. Bao. and she "had no choice" but to agree. Last month, Bao Tong, the only senior government official imprisoned in 1989, was also released but has been under house arrest in West Peking since, with relatives only allowed to visit when escorted by police. Teresa Poole - Peking

Umberto Bossi, leader of Italy's Northern League, will find out if his demands for secession have made any impact on voters as results come in from elections in 165 communities around the country. Most eyes will focus on the northern cities of, Manton, Pavia and Lodi, which Mr Bossi wants to be the heartland of a new country, Padania, free of the hurdens of central government. Whatever the result, Mantus promises to be the scene of a showdown because provincial authorities. controlled by the League, intend to evict the local government prefect from his offices in a challenge to the authority of Rome. Andrew Gumbel - Rome

Bangladeshi police began a crackdown on parties as politicians threw themselves into last-minute charpaigning for elections on Wednesday. "Two things bother us - flegal arms and miscreants who may disrupt elections," the Chief Election Commissioner, Mohammad Abu Hena, said. Some 400,000 police and auxiliary workers will assist near the booths but 40,000 troops from the army, which has dominated politics, would keep distance and step is only if asked for. Bangladeshis hope the polis will restore political stability endangered by killings and army unturines. Ranter – Dhaha

Western envoys appealed to separatist for It anonths. "Our message ... is a simple one: there is no point in communing to hold impocent tourists hostage." the British, German, Norwegian and US ambassadors to India said. An American, Donald Hutchings, a German, Dirk Hasert, and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells were kidnapped by Al-Faran militants in July while trekking.

Fifth hostage, Hans Christian Ostroe, a Norwegian, was killed in August. The ambassadors said their trip to Kashmir reflected the importance their governments attached to the issue as well as concern at reports that the hostages might be dead. Ranto - Stranger

Giancario Aragona was made head of the Sounds and Cooperation ny s-wiinchin Flocynck. OSCE, born of the Cold War, oversaw many post-Communist elections in East Europe and the former Soviet Union. Mr Aragona, 53, is a veteran diplomat who had a stint as adviser to Italy's defence minister and cabinet boss for the foreign minister. AP - Vienna

Geneva voters appeared to have rejected construction of a new crossing over their lake, according to preliminary referendam returns. The crossing. to relieve growing congestion in the city centre served by only one 19th-century bridge across the Rhone at the mouth of the lake, was approved in principle by 68 per cent in an earlier referendum in 1988. But there has since been vocal opposition from ecologists. Renter - Geneva

Pol Pot death report was 'only a joke'

TIM McGIRK Aranyaprathet

Is Pol Pot dead or alive? It seems too neat, perhaps, that the enigmatic chief of the Khmer Rouge, guilty of killing 2 million Cambodians and now hunted in the jungle by his many enemies, should be spared justice only to die from a mosquito's hite.

Officially, the Thai horder town of Aranyaprathet is closed. The Khmer Rouge guer-rillas, at war with King Norodom Sihanouk's government in Phnom Penh, live in the marshy jungles beyond the last Thai rice paddies. Unofficially, some Khmer Rouge guerrillas are allowed across to buy fish sauce to make their meagre rice meals more palatable, and the small morsels of gossip they dispense in return are usually all that journalists and spies can glean about Pol Pot's activities.

It was one such Khmer soldier, a deputy commander, who told a Thai journalist last Wednesday that Pol Pot had died of malaria. The world was only too ready to be rid of the Khmer chief, who is considered one of this century's most evil men.

News of Pol Pot's death was flashed "urgent" by a wire service, ringing bells in newsrooms around the globe. Ohituaries were prepared which argued whether Pol Pot was a sadistie madman, or, as the radicals view him, a true revolutionary who carried revolution to a nihilis-

apart every Cambodian family, own death to confuse his foes. eradicated intellectuals, teachers and scientists as harmful "microbes", and tortured and executed tens of thousands of to return society "to the sim-plicity of a single grain of rice". But not everyone believed Pol

officers posted along the border failed to confirm it, as did authorities in Phnom Penh, who desperately wanted to believe it. Pol Pot's 10,000 Khmer soldiers still control nearly one quarter of Cambodia and are constantly

harassing government troops. It is not a simple matter of crossing over to find him. I tried approaching the Aranyaprathet horder on motorcycle. Rounding a bend on the jungle road, I came to a Thai army checkpoint. An officer waved me back angrily. "It's danger-ous," he said. "Don't you know the Khmer Rouge are kidnap-ping foreigners these days?"

It was true. So desperate are the guerrillas to reopen contacts with the West that they are grabbing foreigners as ransom. This conversation-opener hasn't worked: at least four westerners, a Briton, an Australian, a Frenchman and a German, have been killed by the Khmer.

One Thai journalist did make it into Khmer Rouge territory. Prasit Sangrungrueng said he contacted a nephew of Pol Pot's by radio. This oephew, an army commander named So Hong, was staying at the same rebel base in north-east Cambodia as the Khmer leader. He con-firmed his uncle was still alive.

And the original report? "It was a Joke," explained Mr Sangrungrueng, "The Khmer commander was even teasing about how he was taking his entire unit to the funeral ceremony."

Some Thai intelligence officers, however, helieve Pol Pot He emptied the cities, tore may be spreading rumours of his

Perhaps. But some day the story of Poi Pot's death will come true. It might indeed executed tens of thousands of come from a mosquito's sting, his own Khmer cadres; all this hut many Cambodians would prefer that Pol Pot be brought plicity of a single grain of rice".

But not everyone believed Pot Pot was dead. That intelligence ulously on his own people.



King's celebrations include early releases for 30,000 prisoners

Free at last: Surachai Sae-Dan, a leading Thal communist released from jail under the royal amnesty. Photograph: AFP



The king at celebrations to mark 50 years on the throne

Thais celebrate 50-year reign with sea of candles

across the country yesterday honoured their 68-year-old monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, marking a half-century on the throoe.

The central Bangkok Sanam Luang royal cremation ground was turned into a sparkling sea of light as tens of thousands of people held candles and sang the royal anthem. Similar ceremonies were held simultaneously across the kingdom. King Bhumibol acceded to

Bangkok (Reuter) - Thais the throne at the age of 18 when the Thai monarchy's future was in doubt. Acting behind the scenes, with few legal powers, he has trodden a wary path with successive military rulers to rehuild the institution's prestige.

While the king presided over a ceremony in the morning honouring his royal ancestors, the first of some 30,000 convicts to see early freedom under a royal pardon stepped through prison gates into the arms of tearful relatives.



Patriot: A woman waving a flag in honour of the king

2 FOR 1 ODEON CINEMA TICKET OFFER WITH THE THE INDEPENDENT

o celebrate 100 years of British cinema we have linked up with Odeon Cinemas to offer all readers two tickets for the price of one at participating Odeon Cinemas throughout the UK. Among the films showing next week are Primal Fear, From Dusk Till Dawn, Mr Holland's Opus, Muppet Trea-sure Island, Spy Hard, The Birdcage, Copycat, ThingsTo Do In Denver When You're Dead, Toy Story, Executive Decision and

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THE INDEPENDENT



Now And Then (certificate PG) stars Melanie Griffiths, Demi Moore, Rosie O'Donnell and Rita Wilson in a nostalgic and funny protrait of how one Summer set in mo-tion the adult lives of four remarkable women. Io 1970 they made a friendship pact as the no-so-innocent world of childhood adventure was cracked by the reality of divorce and the spectre of a 25 year old murder mystery. Now they gather together to solve one final mystery: how the girls they were at 12 could have become the women they are now.

From Dusk Till Dawn (certificate 18), tells the story of the notorious Gecko Brothers (George Clooney & Queotin Tarantino), two of America's most dangerous criminals, on the run from the Texas police and the FBI after a crime spree through the South-west. Also stars Harvey Keitel and Juliette Lewis.

In Muppet Treasure Island (cer-tificate U), the Muppets are back and ready to cast off and set sail on their zaniest adventure ever, as they encounter pirates, huried treasure and some angry warthogs,

INDEPENDENT

in Walt Disney Pictures' all-oew, live-action, musical feature.

Spy Hard (certificate PG), stars Leslie Nielsen as Agent WD-40, a.k.s. Steele - Dick Steele in a comedy of high-voltage adven-ture, high-tech gadgetry and lowbrow humour.

In Toy Story (certificate PG), six year old Andy's toys have a life of their own when left alone. Led by Andy's favourite toy Woody, the fearless pull-string cowboy doll, the toys live a quiet life of dedication to their master. All this is thrown into jeopardy on Andy's birthday, the most dreaded day in the life of a toy, when the fear of being replaced by another toy can become a reality.

Up Clase And Personal (certificate 15) stars Michelle Pfeiffer as Tally Atwater, a articulate, sophisticated and charming news-caster. She is a familiar and comforting face to millions of octwork TV news viewers. Going from small-town weathergirl to prime-time network anchor she was aided and abetted by Warren Justice (Robert Redford) a brilliant older newsman, her mentor and lover. Their romance in intense and exhilarating yet each hreak-ing story threatens to drive them apart.



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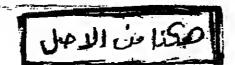
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THE INDEPENDENT



the leader page

Ulster talks must draw out extremist poison

something historic and extraordinary. On the other hand, they could be the beginning of something shambolic and tragic. The modern history of Ulster would lead any cautious person to put their money on the second outcome. All parties to the conflict in Northern Ireland, not excluding successive British governments, have shown a talent in the past 30 years for snatching deadlock from the jaws of hope.
But there are reasons to believe that

Şap<u>res</u> Per

these talks - however long and vexatious may escape the poisonous orthodoxies that have frustrated all previous attempts to reach a settlement. Violence is addictive, but so is peace. A majority of people in both traditions in Northern Ireland, and the vast majority of people in Ireland and Britain, do not want to go back to a low-level, permanent war in these islands. The present British government, though hampered by its tiny deliamentary majority, needs a success in Ulster. Mr Major, when not distracted by his right wing, has shown intermittent courage and imagination in pursuing, in the Irish question, at least one endurg monument for his otherwise uned-

fying administration. The US government has taken a orceful, sometimes clumsy interest in he process but has played, on balance, useful role in assuaging Catholic anxieties. The presence of ex-Senator

today could be the beginning of talks is something all sides ought to welcome. As former Congressional foes have discovered to their cost, Mr Mitchell's soporific exterior camouflages a tough and wily mind, with an enormous capacity for keeping political poker-games in progress.

On the nationalist side of the argument, there remains, undoubtedly, an unreconstructed chunk of opinion that believes, fanatically, in an ultimate tribal victory of Catholic over Protestant. The Docklands bombing was a statement of their continuing presence and strength. All the other participants are right to demand another ceasefire as the price of Sinn Fem's seats at the talks. But it is sometimes forgotten that the Docklands bombing, wicked as it was, has not led to a fullscale resumption of IRA warfare. The pro-negotiation faction in the Republican movement has held the line to that extent; it now seems likely that it will win agreement for another ceasefire, possibly once the Belfast talks have been under way for several days. It is reasonable to be suspicious about Republican sincerity. But there is, for the first time, a willingness in a section of the Sinn Fein-IRA leadership to consider compromise: something that gives the nationalist community a stake in Northern Ireland while preserving, in democratic form, its ultimate aspiration to a united Ireland.



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On the Unionist side, there are wildly conflicting signals. But (given a cease-fire) David Trimble's Ulster Unionists have shown a willingness, confirmed again yesterday, to sit down with Sinn Fein to see what talks may bring. Two of the Protestant splinter groups that have emerged in the past year are also ready to enter talks with what in Ulster passes for an open mind.

This leaves the considerable hulk of the Rev Ian Paisley and his Democratic Unionist Party. Mr Paisley, it seems, has always been there, a kind of living Mount Rushmore monument to intransigence. He represents a tribal and fun-

damentalist determination not just to maintain Ulster as part of the UK, but to maintain a Protestant ascendancy over Catholics, whatever the cost. He played, it is sometimes now forgotten. a leading part in the defeat of the modest moves towards economic and political rights for Catholics in the late Sixties, a defeat that produced nearly 30 years of war. And yet it must be remembered that Mr Paisley represents a genuine and sizable chunk of unionist opinion. The voting in last week's curious election gave him one of his best-ever scores.

what the future of Northern Ireland might be, because a precise blueprint is impossible to imagine from where we stand now. The negotiators are entering a labyrinth: it is their duty to keep trying every avenue, look round every corner, until opportunities emerge that no one could foresee.

Nevertheless, it is possible to set out - or recall - the few broad principles without which no settlement will be possible, or lasting.

There can be no change in the status of Northern Ireland as part of the UK without the consent of a majority of the population. This should be formally guaranteed, as part of a settle-ment, by both Irish and British governments. Equally, straightforward Protestant majority rule has proved to be unworkable. Some form of powersharing (though a dirty word to many Unionists) is inescapable. There must also be renewed guarantees of economic and educational fair-play for Catholics. There should be some recognition that, for a portion of the population, a united Ireland remains the ultimate goal - but an acceptance that it will only be reached by democratic means. All terrorist weapons must be surrendered as part of a settlement and, if possible, as a token of growing trust, they should be surrendered by increments during the talks.

The hardest part may prove to be the No one has a precise hlueprint for nature and scope of the "cross-border"

economic and political institutions foreseen by London and Dublin last year. British officials tend to stress their pragmatic, co-operative nature; Irish nationalists see them as forerunners of all-Ireland institutions.

It is possible - just - to imagine a settlement that encompasses the mainstream unionists and the moderate wing of Republicanism. The mood and strength - of the Republican dichards remains anyone's guess. It is impossible to imagine any settlement that includes Mr Paisley. Unlike, say, John Hume of the SDLP, whose contribution to progress has been immense, the DUP leader is defined by his refusal to compromise, in the end, the peace process will have to work around him.

But any settlement that leaves a large and embittered minority of either Catholics, or Protestants, would be pointless. Sooner or later, the machincry of violence would be set in motion once again. The trick must be to draw the poison of the extremists of both sides. The aim must be to convince a large majority of Catholics and Protestants that the age-old, visceral desire for the triumph of one over the other can be replaced by a peace that offers both prosperity and a respect for the rights of both communities. All the participants in today's talks, and any others who may join in as the talks continue, deserve a chance to open the

> Millennium on the Thames

Sir: The news on the Millennium **Exhibition front sounds** problematic. If the ideas were

Mayhe the conventional concept

of an exhibition in this era of sustainable growth is wrong; surely Seville has taught us that. We should be investing in something that will last not a year but 25 years, something that improves the great anniable expours

right the money would flow,

great available resource of

The Thames from Hampion

Court to Chatham could become

the canvas with Greenwich as the

The past 10 centuries of British

history and culture are represented by the great buildings on the banks of the Thames. These range from the Tower of London in the 11th

Hampton Court, the City churches

century to Westminster Abbey,

Somerset House, the Palace of

Westminster and Whitehall, the

Why not make the Thames our

exhibition space, and pul the great Millennium Fund towards making each of these places host to a permanent exhibition about its own

era; some span the centuries. Let

each month in the millennium year

focus on one of them, ending with a

great national celebration and look

to the future at Greenwich. Let's make them all accessible from the river with a rejuvenated river-boat

The Thames would live again

and the sources of private finance could be hroadened to include

some of the great institutions of

this country.

RICHARD BURTON

and St Paul's Cathedral, to

Festival Hall and Bankside.

London, the river,

jewel in the crown.

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Saving the comprehensive school ideal

r: Tony Blair's commitment to nding mixed-ability leaching port, 7 June) is to be welcomed, is his continued commitment to e comprehensive ideal. Comprehensives led to the tinction of the pernicious

condary moderns, and if they did ildren from all socioeconomic ama the chance to fulfil emselves irrespective of their ility in the more academic

The failure of the system to dfil many of the hopes at its ception is the result of the isguided attempt to introduce med-ability teaching; the greater phasis on children "taking usibility", which, sadly, ted in many schools becoming sols of indiscipline; and the imprehensive schools being

However, the the success of the imprehensive experiment can be dged by the Government's own ague tahles. Had such tahles en published in 1960, say, how

TUART RUSSELL

llege in 1967, the year of the lowden report. That report had ready acquired a hiblical status, cording to the wishes of its isse days it was a licence to sugrate some teaching chniques and to give demon atus to the labels used to scribe them. As well as "rote arning", I note that "formal ethods", "parrol fashion" and lass teaching" are still taboo eas for Elizabeth Lawrence

placed these methods. My intemporaries and I were armed ith nothing more than the concept a "stimulating environment", hich in practice reduced teachers interior decorators, forever eating new, "exciting" displays on e classroom walls. Certainly, sloured paper, drapes and Blu-tak e more directly malleable than ildren and with a pretty assroom a teacher can acquire a isplaced sense of achievement. he connection of decor, though, th inspiration and motivation had be accepted as an act of faith. A well motivated child will learn ore readily, and it is a teacher's ity to inspire a will to learn. aving said that, most skills can ily be acquired and perfected rough regular routine and peated application. Needless to y these particular "3 Rs" were Itlawed in the Sixties. I am delighted that now David

unkett has publicly declared the operor "Progressive Education" naked. It is a shame that for ree decades so many children we been denied the opportunity develop their potential.

Part of the reason why de n cannot do a simple traction of 40p from 50p iters, 8 June) is that they have



thing else would be worthwhile rais alone. However, they also keeved a social purpose, allowing oupings the opportunity to work nd play logether. They also habled gifted children in certain eas such as sport, art, music and

nerally too large.

any secondary moderns would ave featured?

irencester, Gloucestershire r. I entered teacher training

d, like the Bihle, was interpreted ediators. For the college staff of not learnt the subtraction tables of one digit from another by rote. They also need to learn the rules as to how to perform suhtraction. research into subtraction by cognitive psychologists over the

past 30 years, and we have a fairly clear idea of the processes involved. Thus, there is a role for rote learning in education, in contrast to the views of Elizabeth She does not explain how she has Lawrence (letters, 7 June). If children cannot perform the single-digit subtractions fast enough, then they will have difficulty doing two-digit subtractions in their heads. Rote learning and practice are a simple method of ensuring that this knowledge becomes automatic. Of course, rote learning alone is not sufficient to learn subtraction, since the child needs to know when to borrow and other rules. Dr EDMUND FURSE Department of Computer Studies University of Glamorgan Pontypridd

A blow against tabloid cant

There has been extensive

Sir: Well done to Polly Toynbee for striking the first blow against the scourge of the tabloids (6 June). There are those of us who would have relished the opportunity of doing the same when we, too, were the subject of their pernicious, moralising cant but couldn't fight back for lack of access to your

front page.
Polly and other responsible journalists dealt with the Child "B" case by focusing on the hugely important issues it raised, treating me as a public servant with some integrity. For the tabloids, both

was open house for vitriol and personal abuse.

Until my experiences of the pass 12 months I had always been a staunch defender of a free press. I gutter press. STEPHEN THORNTON

us less well known than Ms been subjected to the tyranny of long-lens cameras on the garden wall and the interrogation and welcome her attempt to bring the Mail's scurrilous methods of JANET PARASKEVA Charities Board

Sir: I am sick of hearing reporters have to sell their papers to pay use these methods to sell their papers? Because the public where it belongs. Mrs M W KESSEN Sheffield

national and local, meanwhile, it the front page of the

now wonder whether those of us in the public glare need some means of protecting our families from the Chief Executive

Cambridge & Huntingdon Health

Sir: Polly Toynbee's exposure of how the Daily Mail "digs its dirt" is to be applauded (6 June). Those of Toynbee hut who have nevertheless sometimes doorstepping of friends, neighbours, family and ex-husbands journalism into the public domain. Director, England National Lottery Leicester

castigated for muck-raking. Why do they do it? Because their editors demand it. Why do their editors demand it? Because they their wages. Why do they have to demand it. Let us put the hlame

Sir: I was astounded that Polly Toynbee was allowed almost half Independent to moan about her troubles with the Daily Mail. The methods of the tahloid press are hardly a revelation. Does Ms

Toynbee really think anyone outside her immediate circle is interested? LINDA SANSBURY

Sir: I write to support and praise the courage and intelligence of Polly Toynhee in defying the moral illiteracy of those whose educational deficiencies prevent them from understanding that the private hehaviour of consenting people cannot raise a moral issue PETER IAY The Garrick Club London WC2

BBC history chucked out

Sir: Your report (8 June) about the BBC changes which will mean BBC Radio being chucked out of Broadcasting House, to be replaced by bureaucrats, will appal occasional contributors and presenters.

l am doing a short Radio 4 series at the moment, and one attraction is not the money - which is about a quarter of what any halfdecent hack could get by spending the same time writing a newspaper feature - but the convenience and pleasure, nay the excitement, of going into BH, feeling part of our

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

(Fax: 0171-293 2056: e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

national culture, part of our architectural heritage. t will definitely think twice about trailing out to some concrete chunk in the wilds of White City. It's handy for nowhere and about as exciting or pleasurable as BBC Manchester's New Broadcasting House. Why can't the salaried suits stay in White City? HUNTER DAVIES Loweswater Cumbria

Cars discredit democracy

Sir: The latest preposterous plan to dig miles of tunnels underneath London in order that cardependent drivers can extrude themselves to the surface of the City via lifts and escalators (report, 8 June) is further evidence of the way so-called democracy defeats itself.

It is clear to anyone with common sense that the only way to deal with the mess of traffic polluting our city streets (not only London), is to provide parking outside the city and take measures to force drivers out of their comfy seats and on to public transport. Improving public transport for this purpose could not cost more than

than digging tunnels. But in our style of democracy. government, fearful of losing votes, is obliged to take only actions which meet the majority of voters' wishes, regardless of whether those actions will result in a more pleasant and fairer world or not. There is an assumption that the people know

best. It would be cheaper simply to abolish government and let the people get on with it. SOPHIE BUNHILL

No routine torture in Kenya

Sir: I was surprised to see a second article from your Nairobi correspondent, David Orr, quoting from "damning evidence" produced by Amnesty International on alleged cases of torture in Kenya (5 June). This quoted the wife of a vocal opposition politician, no doubt anxious to damage the reputation of the government at a time when cohesive opposition in Kenya has virtually collapsed. We admit that in every basket of

apples a couple may be rotten hut it is reckless and irresponsible to suggest that rape by law enforcement agents is widespread or that torture is routine. Kenya does not condone torture and indeed where any law enforcement agents have been accused of having used excessive force in dealing with suspects the law has taken its course. The arrest and prosecution of the individuals involved in the moh rough-up of Richard Leakey is a case in point.

Further, as demonstrated by the recent presidential appointment of a nine-member standing committee on human rights, Kenya has a clear conscience and position on the violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms as set out in the constitution. MWANYENGELA NGALI High Commissioner Kenya High Commission London WI

Ahrends Burton and Koralek, Architects London NWI Allowing the

deaf to hear Sir: A crucial point for cochlear implants (Bryan Appleyard, 6 June) is the ability to work and Ely, Cambridgeshire

compete with "normal" people.

I am a profoundly deaf postgraduate with excellent

academic qualifications. I am not able to communicate effectively on the telephone. This has proved to he my downfall at job A couple of weeks ago, I was

approached hy a health official to discuss the possibility of the cochlear operation. I simply said that if the implant enables me to use the telephone competently then I would give it serious consideration. So do I have a choice? Perhaps. PIERRE FACHON Norwich

Firm hand of absurdity

Sir: I certainly slapped each of my three sons when they were young ("Blair is sorry for spanking children", 6 June). Of course, most of the time I found they wanted to act in a sensible and thoughtful way, and this would normally he managed by discussion hetween parents and children where there was any lack of clarity. But I also felt it would be valuable if they had some personal experience of the milder historical absurdities of human development, so smacked them each on one occasion. TREVOR J BROWN Newbury, Berkshire

THE 12 SNEAKIEST FRAUDS IN BRITAIN TODAY and how not to be fooled by them

By Chris Blackhurst

olice are investigating a fraud that has been sweeping the recent weeks. For once, it is not a major complex case involving millions of pounds circulating the globe in a way the layman does not understand. This is not another Robert Maxwell or BCCI.

But unlike those high-pro-file, glamorous cases, this one will not receive acres of space in the press. Its perpetrators will not be snapped at their swanky houses. The Serious Fraud Office will not run the show, Instead, this is an all-too typical instance of everyday fraud. Unfortunately, because it is denied publicity, the public does not know what to expect. Fraud, according to the received wisdom, is the preserve of hig-time villains with offshore hank accounts, yachts and villas, Most scams are not like that.

In this one, accountants, solicitors and stockbrokers and banks have opened their mail to find an invoice from a firm in Liverpool charging them £28 for having supplied 100 plain. huff-coloured folders.

As scams go, it is a good one. Nobody, certainly not a busy City executive, can remember the folders. The colour is important: neutral buff, not garish red that someone would recall receiving. The name and address on the invoices was unmemorable.

There was, though, one giveaway. The invoices were printed on such scrappy paper that in some quarters, at least, they aroused suspicion. They sent them to the police who are now hunting the senders hiding behind an anonymous address on Mersevside.

Chances are, their efforts receiving the invoice will have just paid it, no questions asked. The con-artists will have scarpered into the Merseyside

night.
It was dead easy, really: just an invoice, a photo-copier, a phone hook for addresses and a dolloo of nerve. This sort of cheap trick is all the rage at the moment. A husinessman in Surrey - at least that is what he purported to he - recently

restaurants on the Continent claiming they owed him money after a waiter spilled wine over his Savile Row suit, showed just how easy it is to rip peo-

hoteliers and restaurateurs replied to the gent with the double-barrelled name from cover his dry-cleaning bill, but

ing to trade with Britain. Most, says Adam Bates, fraud partner at the accountants, KPMG, throw the letter away. Sadly, some don't and the bogus pub-lishers make a killing.

and make the directory sound as impressive as possible. Some think, 'It looks good, we must be in that' and pay the money." It only takes 10 per cent to pay for the profit to be enormous.

have to do is supply hank account details so the Nigerians

authorities are not told, no work hecause people are greedy. They think they are about to make a few million are so convincing.

annual "Fraud Barometer". This year's shows 535 cases of fraud identified so far, involving losses of £3hn. But they are

police in several countries would like to interview him. Another current favourite is the fax directory. Businesses get faxed a letter, claiming to come from a firm of publishers about to produce a new directory. For £25, they too, can be in this essential tool for anyone want-

They fax thousands of firms

Britain have been plagued by letters from people in Nigeria claiming they know where there is a pot of cash that could be theirs to share. All the Brits can get the loot to them. They give the details, their account is emptied, the Nigerian cash never arrives.

Nothing ever bappens. The

Nigerians are ever arrested. These crimes rarely make the press or Crimewatch UK.
There is an emharrassment cessful," said Mr Bates. "They oounds and are gullible. Plus. the people doing the conning

Mr Bates's firm produces an

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NAT WEST

If you're looking for a loan the service is quick and efficient. And to

ple off.

Nobody knows how many Morden, enclosing a cheque to

For years now, businesses in

Below that figure and outside the courts, there is no way of telling how hig the problem is.

factor - people do not like admitting they have heen ripped off. That is why the Nicerian frauds are so suca result, people are left with the idea that fraud is something that cannot happen to thers.

Scams and cons in 1996 are changing to reflect the uncertain times. A decade ago, they involved the granting of mort-gages hased on artificially inf-lated property valuations or the selling of shares in bogus companies. In these straitened cases of £100,000-plus where times, they are more about wrote to 1,000 hotels and charges have been brought, crooked insolvencies and secur-

ing cheap non-existent loans and overdrafts. Clive Zietman, of the City

"There has been a discernable change from the 1980s-type rising market frauds to the 1990s-type 'recession-based' frauds," says Mr Zietman. "The climate now makes it harder for people to get money from hanks, therefore they look more imaginatively at where they can get money from and they fall prey to the fraudster."

With the help of Mr Ziet-man, the Independent has compiled a list of the Top 12 easiest frauds of the moment. None require any great financial expertise - in most cases, all that is required is a phone, possibly a fax, and a dose of

1. The Saudi Shuffle

Mr Bent convinces Mr Twit that his company, Bent Loans Limited, can make finance available at very low interest rates through his "unique" contacts with, say, somebody fantastically rich, frequently the Saudi Arabian Royal Family. In

order to process Mr Twit's application for a \$755m loan, Mr Twit must pay to Mr Bent a small administrative fee of \$500,000, returnable if the loan application is accepted. Mr Twit is a better alternative to a borpromptly disappears.

2. The Mighty Wurlitzer

Mr Bent opens a bank account at Barclays. He puts £100,000 in the account. He opens another account at Lloyds and another at National Westminster. He circulates, at great speed, large numbers of cheques between the three accounts to create a whirl of activity giving the impression his business has a substantial turnover. On this basis, the banks offer him big overdrafts. Suddenly, all three accounts are emptied with Mr Bent drawing on all his overdrafts. He then disappears.

3. Back from the **Futures**

Mr Bent sets up a husiness account, telling the bank man-which, he claims, will call on ager tales about funeral expenhis vast expertise and skill to play the futures market. He his travels to find his money has invites people to give him their gone.

their cash to pay back an excellent rate of return. More investors flood in, hearing this Bent suddenly disappears taking their cash with him.

4. Dead Man's Holiday

Mr Smith goes on holiday for five weeks to Australia. As soon as he has gone, Mr Bent huys a will form from WH Smith and creates a fake will. complete with fake witness signatures. He then fakes a letter from a fictitious firm of solicitors telling him that Mr Smith has died and that he has been named as executor. Mr Bent then goes to the

Probate Registry, shows the documents, pays a fee and fills in a form to make an emergency application for a grant of probate. At no point does he have to show a death certificate. Armed with the resulting probate document he goes to Mr Smith's bank and empties the ager tales about funeral expenses. Mr Smith comes back from

5. The Invisible Tenant

Mr Bent buys a house, through a company he sets up, for £100,000. This price is depressed because the house has a sitting tenant in it. Mr Bent arranges for his company to sell the house to him for £200,000 on the basis of vacant

The solicitors for his company believe there will he vacant possession as do the solicitors for Mr Bent and his mortgage lender - none of them ever bothers to cbeck and take his and the company's word for it - who is prepared to advance him £200,000. The house is valued on the basis of vacant possession. The lender lends him the money and Mr Bent disappears, leaving the mortgage firm with a property with a sitting tenant worth £100,000.

6. Hologram Leasing

Mr Bent borrows money to buy a piece of machinery. He then leases it to Mr Twit who must pay a premium in advance. The terms of the lease say the machinery will not be delivered for two months. Mr Bent then leases the same machinery out to as many other ullible people he can find on the same terms. He vanishes with their premiums.

7. Old-fashioned Bribery

Mr Bent is short of cash. He knows his bank manager will not extend his overdraft limit of £5,000. He takes the bank manager out to lunch and bands in Spain. The bank manager becomes amenable to granting a £1m overdraft which Mr Bent cannot, and does not, pay.

8. The Listed **Building Stripper**

Mr Bent obtains a mortgage to buy a listed huilding. Once inside, he strips the building of all its valuable assets such as carved staircases, doors, chandeliers, covings, fireplaces and doors. He puts the money raised from their sale offshore, well away from the reach of the mortgage company. He stops his mortgage payments and disappears, leaving the mortgage lender with a derelict property and a huge

9. The Phantom **Folders**

The Bent Stationery Company sends invoices for an innocuous amount to the top 20,000 companies claiming it supplied them a quantity of folders. Ten per cent of the companies pay without question. It adds up to tens of thousands of pounds and the company van-ishes.

10. Figment 🍊 Friends

Mr Bent owes £500,000 to his creditors but is keen to avoid bankruptcy. With the benefit of the Insolvency Act and a group of friends who agree to act as phoney creditors, he enters into a "voluntary arrangement" with them to repay all his creditors. Sp in the pound. The friends forge documents purporting to show that Mr Bent owes them \$1,500,000. £1,500,000.

Though the debts are figments of their imagination they add up to 75 per cent of the total value of his supposed debts, and the real creditors have to accept the 5p terms the fraudsters have agreed. As the real creditors are unable to prove the false nature of the other claims, the voluntary arrangement is sanctioned by a court and the honest creditors lose their right to recover £475,000. Mr Bent has to pay out only £25,000 and his slate of debts is wiped clean.

11. The Fiery Phoenix

Mr Bent's company takes on huge borrowings, they goes bust. He sets up the following day under an almost identical name. This scam was supposed to have been dealt with by the lasolvency Act of 1986 but that only applies to liquidations. Provided his company goes into receivership, and not liquidation, it can rise from the ashes

12. The Widow Wobbier

This is the police nickname for a type of fraud increasing as people live longer. Mr Bent befriends an elderly lady in a nursing home, by accompanying her on shopping trips and to dances. He persuades her to sign a power of attorney which, he says, would allow him to manage her affairs properly while she is inside. He clears out her hank accounts and disappears.

All the above could be seen as a "how to" guide. But most villains do not need any such instruction. For the rest of us they should serve as a warning. There is a tahoo about

fraud," says Clive Zietman. Nobody likes talking about it, nobody understands it. If we talk about it, we can see it com-ing - we need to be aware of these tricks and be alive to them." You cannot now say you were not told.

How to master the art of showing off

doday we turn to the subject of master classes. No festival would be complete without a master class. No TV schedule would be complete without a master class or two, especially if the TV station is looking to have its franchise renewed and wants to look a hit cul-

tural, cheaply.
So we have now become familiar with the figure of the master artist sitting or standing in front of a select group of talented pupils, letting them into the secrets of the

A master cellist, perhaps. An opera singer. A flamenco dancer.

These people giving the master class are allowing the pupils to inhale a little of the hreath of their god-given talents. They are also getting

money for old rope. So wouldn't it be nice if you could get to give some master classes? And got some of the master class money that seems to be rolling round? So how do you give a masLuckily, we have with us today Quentin Foliat, who has been giving master classes in the giving of master classes. since master classes were started and he spotted their

Mr Quentin Foliat. "Thank you, ladies and

gentlemen Now, the first thing to stress is that when you give a master class, you must choose a your TV licence should be subject that is easily demonstrated and very impressive to

A chess master class would be very slow and bonng. A tattoomg master class would be interesting, because most people bave never seen tattooing being done. But it would be very slow, especially if you were doing something like the tattoo of a man on a motor hike, because the details on a Harley Davidson machine are very difficult to get right, and you don't want people writing in to the TV station and saying. "Your man doing the tattoo master class put the foot rests in totally the

wrong place, I don't think



Miles Kington

renewed and I'm going to write to the ITC and say so." do you? Other master class subjects

which would be very unsuitable include taxidermy, weather forecasting, demolition work and coarse fishing.

Luckily, all these subjects which are very bad for master classes, are very good for after-dinner speaking. Lots of weather forecasters and fishermen and taxidermists and dynamite experts have worked up cracking good talks, full of funny stories of things which went wrong, which go down a homh after dinner

"The Day I Stuffed the

Wrong Dog" or "What Hap-pened When the Factory Chimney Fell the Wrong Way could make a rip-roaring 10-minute anecdote.
But I cannot see them mak-

ing a good master class. emember, a master class is for one thing, and one thing For the master to have a

chance to do a bit of showing That is why it is good to do a master class in cello playing, or cartooning, or conjuring, or acting, or footballing, or any-

thing that permits you to show off a bit of wizardry. You can do a football master class. But you cannot do a football managing class. Why? Because it is easy to do a bit of football skill showing off, but it is impossible for a football manager to do any football managing in front of an audience. (But he should have

stories!) So, the master class is for showing off. But that is not all. It is also for humiliating the

some good after dinner

When a master cellist plays

a few bars, and then says to the nearest pupil, "Now play that remembering what I have told you," the pupil will play it almost as well as the master, often better,

But the master will not admit this. The master will interrupt the pupil (as soon as possible, if he is playing very well) and say, "No, no, no, no, no, you are forgetting what I say about the poetry and the silence between the notes! You must let the poetry come out of the music! You are playing the notes very well but you are not letting the poetry escapel Listen to me once

And then the master plays it again, in much the same way as the pupil, who looks daggers at the master for having humiliated him.

тоте.

So, what have we lear ?? Very little.

But it was entertaining, yes? That is what a master class s all about.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you want Quentin Foliat to give master classes in master classes for you.

the commentators

Tell the Fat Controller road rage is OK by me

Cars are filthy and dangerous. But, without a more appealing alternative, we will cling to them

This week the car is under attack. It is National Walk to School Week. "Don't Choke Britain" has just been launched by the bicycle-riding Secretary of State for Transport Since this year marks the 100th anniversary of the manufacture of British cars, Friends of the Earth are celebrating with a campaign called Cars Cost the Earth. For the next few days around the country mock trials will parade the car's many crimes against society.

Fitthy, polluting, noisy, murderous, expensive, despoiler of the country. side and destroyer of towns, the car has come to personify selfish indi-vidualism; it is the Thatcherite dream machine. The sight of long queues of commuters each encased in their own private gas-guzzler, belching out nox-ious, global-warming fumes into the faces of cyclists and pedestrians, stands as the spectre of capitalism at its most destructive. Asthmatic babies in buggies breathe in the ooxious fumes of the more fortunate. The car has murdered some 450,000 Britons since its invention, and it kills - if we are to believe Friends of the Earth – 50,000 badgers a year. The car is guilty, guilty as charged, and we should be ashamed to be seen riding

Compare that to Friends of the Earth's lyrical image of the joys of hicycle-riding. Fast, free, cheap, healthy with the first computer failure and suggests all passengers use "alternative means of healthy – why aren't we all doing it all the time? Why can't we be more like the Dutch, where 50 per cent of journeys in some towns are by bike? Imagine whirring along with the wind in your hair, weaving in and out of grid-locked traffic jams oo journeys that in London take on average half the time it takes by car. Saveas-you-speed-as-yoo-exercise, what

a beguiling green vision. Or, at least, why not use public transport? Labour's recent policy document showed how in London at peak times journeys by car take 72 minutes compared with only 63 minutes by public transport. Read a paper or a book as you travel, avoid road rage and feel greenly virtuous.

Well, there are some overwhelmingly good reasons why not. For a start, I have never felt road rage as hlindingly ferocious as Northern Line rage or Docklands Light Railway rage. Maximum apoplexy comes at that moment when, weighed down with Tesco shopping bags, waiting on the platform at Canary Wharf, the

transport". Such as? Or perhaps it is when the fat con-troller decides to terminate the train at Kennington on a sudden humorous whim, turfing everyone out onto a platform already packed tighter than toes in winklepicker shoes. That induces as yet unrealised fantasies of instigating mass rebellion or train-jacking, forcing the driver to continue on to Morden on pain of death with an unbrella hooked round his neck.

Or is it when yet another wouldbe suicide chooses this spectacularly selfish method of ending it all by jumping under a train in the mid-dle of rush hour at Stockwell station? As for reading a oewspaper in comfort - what, with your nose pressed into some man's armpit encased in a pin-stripe that was due at the cleaners six months ago? All commuters in all cities have such tales with which to bore their fel-

low passengers.
As for cycling, I live far away from work and op a hill. I have tried wob-



It is the only time in the day when you are truly, blissfully alone

hling along with great huses and six-teen-wheeler boous-or-hust killer trucks thundering by. I know two people who have died riding bicycles and every driver guiltily knows those terrifying moments when an invisible bike seems to have appeared from a lethal hlind spot out of nowhere. I can imagine the mornings - cold, wet, skiddy. What to wear? How do you arrive at work in

far too bedraggled for any official interview or press conference?

Now compare all that to the hours of sheer bliss spent in a car. Forget hicycling with the wind in your hair and turn on the heater or the air conditioning or opeo the sun-roof. Tune in to the *Today* programme. The Archers or Classic FM. Best of all turn off the mobile phone and savour the only time in the day when you are truly alone - no children, no family, no colleagues, only blissful solitude. Who cares if it takes a hit longer - all the more time for quietude and contemplation, cocooned in a womb-like world of personal

Now when the greens see streams of single people in their cars pour-ing through the streets in rush hour, they start to plan car pools. Why not put five people io every car and reduce the traffic by four-fifths? Organise neighbourhood transit systems and save the glabe, Horrors! Travelling to work with a crew of neighbours to make conversation with for an hour a day each way would be torment worse than the

any fit state for work, exhausted and hlessedly anonymous armpits oo the tube. Add to that the wonderful invention of the triangular mug with a rubber bottom, so you can take your cup of tea into the car safely on the dashboard - what more could Van want"

I commute to work gnashing my teeth 00 public transport because it is easier, but only just. I am often tempted to go back to my car. (You hear that, fat controller? How often, driving a car, I have sighed with delight at the pleasure and luck of living now and not at some other time in history, mellowly grateful for the scharitic comforts of modern life. Door in door, warm and easy, lazy

Now I have absolutely no interest in any particular car. Indeed I often lose mine in ear parks because I for-get what it looks like. Any comfortable car that goes will do - forget the Porsches and the turbo-charged penises on wheels. But the ear as icon of freedom is a dream muchine

So how do they plan to wiokle us out of it? I suggest they consider the fable of the sun and the wind competing to force a man to take off his coat. Blow hard with punitive taxes. restrictions and penaltics and we will only wrap our ears around us more closely, punishing them by with-drawing votes. But dazzle us with the sunshine of a public transport system so convenient and enjoyable that it becomes irresistible, then we would relinquish our belching death

Politically, transport is one of the most ideologically fascinating issues. Latter-day socialists dressed up as greens reach for draconian measures with lip-smacking relish, hating the car as the emblem of individualist piggery. But the truth is, people will make canny and precise calculations about how best to travel, partly influenced by cost but more influenced by convenience. Investment in decent public transport (and enticing bievele lanes) has to come before attempts to force people out of their cars. Politicians of all parties are rightly wary of overly anti-car policies or taxes. But reducing carbon emissions matters. Saving countryside and urban landscapes maiiers. Clean air matters. People may care about these things, but they will not endure the Northern Line two

A rather angry peacemaker

t's 25 years ago - August 1971 - hut the mannerisms and features of the man in the photograph are familiar. His face is thinner and more youthful than today, but the figure standing against the wall is unmistakably John Hume. He has just been drenched with purple dye by water cannoo. You can see that characteristic expression of anger and frustration, of rage apparently oearing boiling point. But he's oot throwing a stone or struggling. Not Hume. Firs standing there, defiant, All that rage and emotion seems sublimated, focused, in typically Humean fashion, oo creating rational; unanswerable, persistent argument.

Remaining calm must have required extraordinary self-control. Internment had just been introduced and the British army had entered Derry's nationalist Bogside in strength. Violence looked inevitable, as residents poured on to the streets. Hume's response was to ask the demonstrators to sit down and to oegotiate with the local army commander, who agreed to withdraw his troops. But a secood regiment and its commander refused to move and turned water cannon on the crowd.

Hume describes, in his new book published today, what happeoed oext. "I got up and walked towards them with my hands up, and they repeatedly knocked me down with the jet from the hose. Finally, some soldiers grabbed me and put me up against a wall, where they photographed me, and theo arrested me, charging me with obstructed Her Majesty's

John Hume may be the chief architect of today's peace talks, but his vision must change if they are to succeed, argues Jack O'Sullivan

After all that many might have fallen in with the "men of violence", given that the avenues for sane negotiation had been so determinedly closed. But Hume's reaction was typically stuhborn. He refused to pay a:£20 fine and took his case to the House of Lords. There, he eventually proved that the British arroy's action in Northern Ireland that day had been illegal, because it

the most creative and imaginative constitutional national-ists in Irish history.

In achievement, he stands beside two figures, who likewise eschewed violence: Daniel O'Comell and Charles Stewart Parnell. In their time, they, too, were visionaries, recognising that, despite its apparent ism enjoyed considerable room for manocuvre. Thus, in the

In Hume's mind, the European Union is still the model for a future Ireland

had not been sanctioned by Parliament. Indirectly, the inci-dent and its aftermath led, in March 1972, to the imposition of direct rule of Northern Ireland from London. In apparent defeat. Hume found a roote to

Such success has long vindi-cated his lifelong opposition to violence. But keeping one's temper isn't easy, especially for someooe with years of injustice and political tension burning in his heart. Bot his repression and refashioning of anger into political action, have made him what he is: one of

1820s. O'Connell forged a lasting alliance between Catholicism and nationalism, around the issue of Catholic Emancipation. In the 1880s, Parnell, a Protestant, created Britain's first modern, disciplined political party, a powerful hioc of Irish MPs, who held the bal-ance of power at Westminster and pushed the Prime Minister, William Gładstone, into backing Home Rule for Ireland.

Hume's great insight was to recognise early oo that Britain had, in the main, lost interest in Northern Ireland, save for wishing to maintain peace and

stability. He has sought to con-vince Londoo that peaceful nationalists such as himself, rather than a Unionism that is bankrupt of fresh thinking, can create that stability. To that eod, and to

streogthen his minority community, he has forged alliances, with the Americans, Dublin and in Europe, convincing all that peaceful, moderate nationalism is the way forward. In securing the IRA's ceasefire in Angust 1994, Hume seemed also to have convinced even the modern exponents of "physical force" nationalism that his way, the constitutional route, the talking method, offered greatest hope for success. The allparty talks on Northern Ireland, which begin today, owe a great deal to Hume's analysis

But if there is a crucial weakness in Hume as a visionary, it may be the same failing that afflicted O'Connell and Parnell -an inability to win over Protestants in substantial numbers. Hume, like his predecessors,

is not sectarian; his party proudly boasts that Protestants occupy senior positions. And he, himself, has insight into what moti-vates Unionists. He says that their uncompromising behaviour "can only be understood, if they are seen, as they feel themselves to be, as a threatened minority on the island of Ire-land". He reassures them, explains that they have oothing to fear, that the constitutional link with Britain will remain, while a majority in Northern Ireland desires it. In Derry, where Hume's party, the SDLP, controls the council, nationalism is gracious: every other year a



John Hume in Derry, 1971, awaits arrest by the Army after being drenched by water cannot

Unionist is appointed mayor. Hume, an MEP and one of the long as nationalism sets no limited first Euro-enthusiasts, believes its on its ageoda. Hume's briling, Hume still seems not to hold the all-important key to Unionist hearts. Ynu cao see why, by reading his book. It sets clear limits oo the meth-

ods that nationalism is entitled to use: they must be peaceful. But Hume sets no limits on the aspirations of nationalism. The goal remains a united Ireland, albeit achieved by per-

suasioo and without coercion. In his mind, Europe is the model for a future Ireland. If the European Unioo, forged out of conflict that left 35 million dead in two world wars, can be peaceful, then why can't his people make a new Ireland that buries the old animosities?

first Euro-enthusiasts, believes that, as with the EU, it is possihle through years of discussion and co-operation to achieve closer and closer Irish union.

A few years ago, this argument seemed sound. But Europe is no looger an acceptable template. The reservations of Euro-sceptics have forced enthusiasts for Europe to abandon talk about some golden, but incohate Euro-future (which the sceptics see as cooscious or noconscinus code for federalism) and make explicit the limits of what they seek.

The same goes for nationalists. Unionists are unlikely to hudge from their state of defensiveness and intrarsigence as

O'Connell and Parnell and its on its ageoda. Hume's bril-liance has been to nurture and exploit the power of constitu-tional oationalism, so creatiog hope for Catholics io Northern

Ireland and discrediting the

become the nationalist who finally woo over the Unionists by promising: "We want to go this far and no further."

John Hume: personal views, politics, peace and reconcilistion The big question is whether in Ireland is published by Airlift he will, in the end, stand above Book Company.

Now even graduates are sleeping rough

Youth homelessness may not have the power to grab the headlines but we cannot afford to ignore it

one out of 10 young people living in Londoo hostels for the bomeless is a graduate. This piece of information ought to stir us a hit. It suddenly challenges the stereotype of the young homeless as a feckless fringe, products of families living on the margins of society, people whom it is only too easy to ignore. Nowadays even a good educatioo may be insufficient to earn you a permaneot roof over your head. Youth homelessness is a serious problem spreading through all sectors of society. But the malady is largely hidden. There are no national statis-

ties. What we know is fragmentary and

country undertaken by voluntary bodies or local authorities. But for some years now it has been possible to see, late at night, young people sleeping out on our streets. Yet rough sleepers may account for only about a tenth of all homeless young people; all the young people living in hostels or bed and breakfast, squatting or constantly moving from one friend's mattress on the floor to another - all these are homeless, too. As to the size of the problem, two local surveys from very different areas of the country provide a snapshot. In Oldham, a northern industrial town with redundant cotton mills, a 1995 survey of two hundred 16 to 25-year-

It was reported the other day that ties wheo young people got married at a much younger age than they had hefore or have done since. But whether they married early or went off to university the pathways from dependence at 16 to independence at were clearly marked and reliable Now the routes are often uncertain

and sometimes dangerous. Today, many young people leave their families precipitously and start the journey to independence totally unprepared. The arrival of a step-parent at home may be the trigger. There may be family rows exacerbated by financial factors such as unemployment for the parents or of the young person, or loss of child benefit at 16. Worse still comes from local surveys around the there may have been abuse.

So the first cause of youth homelessness, the first failure, is that the family works less well than it did in launching its young into the world. And all this is compounded in the case of children in care. They must leave by the age of 18, though two-thirds of them have to face life alone by their 17th birthday. Moreover, while a family may provide a shelter from the storm to which an absent son or daughter may go back from time to time, those who were once in care can-not return - which is why between a fifth and a half of all young homeless people were once in care.

A second malfunction is the econolds found that 45 per cent had expetieoced homelessness.
Yet youth homelessness is an old problem that once disappeared. It scarcely existed in the Fifties and Six-



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

olds is about 16 per cent, roughly twice the national average. And that is on the official figures. But as the Government's statistics exclude unemployed people not receiving benefits, which is the case for most 16-year-old and 17-year-olds, the true proportion is even higher.

There are 200,000 young people without a roof over their heads

Pay rates, too, are low for young people, rising from about 35 per cent of average earnings for under 18-year-olds to 75 per cent for 21 to 24-yearolds. At the same time, rents for privately owned properties have been rising faster than inflation, partly because those young people who are able to find well-paid work are less likely than formerly to buy their own place, preferring to rent until the young person nowadays needs about had eaten only one meal or no meals of such hindness may cost us dear.

A third failure is the social secu-rity system. The helping hand of the state is no longer held out so generously along the way from dependence to independence. The Government has withdrawn or reduced benefits as an act of social policy rather than ecooomy; it believes that young peo-ple should either have jobs which are sufficiently well-paid to provide them with the accommodation they require, or they should continue to live in the parental home. Thus 16 and 17-year-olds must attend a Ynuth Training Scheme for which they receive an allowance of £29.50 to £35 per week; there is oo henefil if they drop out, as many do. And benefits for 18 to 24-year-olds are set at 79 per cent of the allowance giveo to 25year-olds and older. As far as public housing goes, local authorities and housing associations give low prior-

The upshot is that io this country there are 200,000 or so young people without a proper roof over their heads at any one time and the total is growing. And it is a deteriorating situation. The longer young people are homeless, the more health problems they have. A Children's Home survey of vulnerable young people livproperty market stabilises. Thus a ing on their own found that a third

ity to young single people; a lifth of couocils simply will not include

yooog single people on their waiting

£1,000 for deposit and rent in advance and yet is quite likely to be earning less than £8,000 a year.

at all during the previous 24 hours. And a minnrity, too, finally turn in petty crime.

Beyond altering the dynamics of family life or the operation of the economy, what can be done? I am chairing an inquiry commissioned by 10 charities. So far as I can see, the sort of actions that could make the greatest difference would be to:

 Reverse the cuts in benefits for young people - the cost of living for the ucemployed is the same whether you are below or above the age of 25.

Put a lot of work into preparing young people leaving care for the harsh world outside. They need transitional support. They are put out into the world by 18 whereas the average age for leaving the parental home is 22.

· Support education initiatives such as the interesting "peer" education project in Newcastle where young people with experience of homelessoess talk to young people who have oot yet left home or care. They tell them about housing rights and opportunities and generally help them prepare for the journey from depen-

dence to independence. But, most of all, the seriousness of the issue has to he recognised. Social problems constantly come up into the headlines and then as swiftly disappear, their novelty value exhausted. Last week it was curfews for kids. What will it he tomorrow? It won't be the young homeless. We have become too used to them. The consequences

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Colin Morris

Everybody knows the phrase "Whiteball farce". It is recorded in the Oxford English Dictionary and has been used in parliamentary debates, but few outside show business can name the author of Reluctant Heroes, the first of the Whitehall farces that launched the career of Brian Rix and ran for nearly four years at the Whiteball Theatre. Colin Morris unt unly wrote the play, hut acted in the West End production and 1951 film, yet he should also be remembered as a television pioneer in the development of dramatised documentary.

Morris was born in Liverpool in 1916 to theatrical pareots, Thomas Morris and his wife Kitty (nee Wicksteed). His father gave up the stage to sell tea but his mother wrote plays (sometimes with her only son) and her brother was a Shakespearean actor at Stratford. Both Wicksteeds were a strong influence on Colin's early life; they hoped be would carry on the Shakespearean connection, but he wanted to write. His first literary earnings, at the age of 10, derived from selling three copies of his own magazine, the Shark - all to his family. After leaving grammar school at 16 (his family were oow living in Wallasey), he tried to find employment oo his local paper but was turned down.

He went instead into the

theatre, joining Frank Benson's company as a call boy (an occupation now made redundant by a modern backstage call system). He progressed to his first walk-oon, the Third Player in Hamlet, then to Sir Toby Belch in Twelfth Night in New Brighton. During rehearsals be wrote a mystery play, Spinners Wood, which obtained 10 curtain calls when it was produced in Hull. The local press said: "We are watching the budding efforts of a future playwright."

It was on a school visit to the Little Theatre in Hull that Brian Rix saw him across the footlights in a Shakespearean play. (The scenery collapsed around him.) After Morris wrote another play, The Ungrateful Heart, his connections with the theatre were severed by the Secood World War and be was relieved to leave acting behind. A major in the Tank Corps, he crossed the North African Desert with a pistol and typewriter. He was a reporter for the 8th Army paper, describing himself as "the most shot at soldier in the British army".

His companion and subsequent friend was Edward Ardizzooe, then an official war artist. countered a lorry driver, later Photograph: BBC

killed, who was the model for Gregory, the gormless Lan-cashire lad played by Brian Rix in Reluctant Heroes.

As the 8th Army progressed through Italy Morris acted as an entertainments officer in Ensa. While enjoying a solitary view of an open-air theatre in Italy, he heard a ooise behind him, and, armed only with a pistol, accepted the surrender of 142 enemy soldiers. He rounded them up, then gave them tea. While in Milan he engaged Viera Huehn, a Yugoslav singer trying to earn her living as an entertainer singing to her guitar. Morris gave her a job tour-ing the convalescent camps and returned to England, keeping up a correspondence. A year lat-er he married her in Milan. He brought ber back to London, where she scored an instant success in cabaret, at Quaglino's and the Savoy, while he returned to writing plays.

Before Morris married, Henry Sberek produced his Desert Rats, billed as "A Play of Adventure", on 26 April 1945 at the Adelphi Theatre, and including in the cast Richard Greene, later television's Robin Hood, Bill Owen (then Rowbotham), later of Last of the Summer Wine, and Larry Noble. Another play, Reluctant Heroes, was suhmitted to oumerous managements before arriving in Bridlington, where Brian Rix was looking for plays for his production company.

Rix read Reluctant Heroes thinking it would be like Desert Rats, but apart from sharing the Army as a subject the two plays had oothing in common. He thought it hilarious, acquired the rights, and Reluctant Heroes opened at the White Rock Pavilion, Hastings, on 27 March 1950, with Rix, Elspet Gray and Larry Noble in the cast.

Morris himself returned to acting to take the role of Captain Percy. The play toured until 12 September 1950, when it reached the West End at the Whitehall Theatre, playing for



1,610 performances. After 14 first-night curtain calls, Morris thanked everyone for enjoying his "elongated music-hall sketch of army life". Everyone had served or had some friend or relation who had served in the recent war. It was good family entertainment and a film of the production retaining some of the original cast was made at Riverside Studios in 1951.

Following the financial success of Reluctant Heroes. Morris decided he wanted to do something for other people. During the run of the play be had trained as a marriage guid-ance counsellor. He had ad-mired the BBC documentaries of Duncan Ross, who wrote about lorry drivers on the Great North Road and aged seamen who had sailed on Greenland whalers (the latter documentary directed by Gil Calder). In 1954 he undertook a BBC training course, together with David Attenborough and Huw Wheldon, who became a frieod and an influence on him. He then met Gil Calder,

who had been working in tele-vision since 1948. Three days on Beachy Head together observing the everyday life of a lighthouse-keeper for the programme Sunk Rock founded a personal friendship, and a close professional team. Morris provided the script, based on his sympathetic observation of people and ability to write dialogue, while Calder's background in theatre and television produc-tion tailored it for the small screen. Their second show. The Unloved, was produced on 7 June 1955 with Rupert Davies (later famous as the detective Maigret) and Melvyn Hayes (later in It Ain't Half Hot Mum) as the beadmaster and delin-

This won two awards and was subsequently published in The Television Playwright, plays se-lected by Michael Barry, in 1960. Donald Wilson noted in an introduction: "That television's insistence on 'reality and mentary] when handled with the skill of a Colin Morris is proved beyond doubt by the skill of a Colin Morris is proved beyond doubt by the skill of a Colin Morris is proved by the skill of a Colin Morris is proved by the skill of a Colin Morris is proved by the skill of a Colin Morris and the skill of a Colin Morris immediacy' is satisfied fully by beyond doubt by its standing with the Critics and by popular

queot boy in a special school.

acclaim. Dramatised documentary was not new. It had its roots in scripts by Michael Barry and Robert Barr in Alexandra Palace productions of I Want To Be an Actor and I Want To Be a Doctor. Duncan Ross and Caryl Doncaster bad also been associated with the genre, but the Morris/Calder team had higger resources in Lime Grove.



Merris, second from right, in the 1951 film of his own play Reluctant Heroes. Brien Rix, for left, plays the gormless Gregory

Social problems were oot failed to find a place for it in the discussed so openly then. There schedules.

bad been studio interviews but they were stilted and formal. Morris wrote about the problems of unmarried mothers, alcoholism, strikes, loneliness and, after the Wolfenden Report of 1957, prostitution - a hitherto taboo subject oo the BBC. (The Wolfenden Report covered bomosexuality as well as prostitution, but the BBC was not yet ready for that.)

A programme on declining membership in the Church of England was the cause of what would be ongoing confusion for Morris with another Colin Morris, the Rev Colin Morris, then During the run of Reluctant

Heroes the wives of both Colin Morris and Brian Rix entered Westminster Hospital on 1 December 1951, Julian Morris arrived safely, but two days later Shelley was born with Down's syndrome. Brian Rix bas told the story of hearing the news in his dressing-room: Morris filled him up with alcohol and was a lovely shoulder to cry on". This human tragedy was later to in-Love and Tears, but the BBC to it as producer.

Morris was given six months' leave to travel and he wrote Chasing the Dragon, about drug smuggling in Hung Kong. He had always been interested in police work and in the late 1950s he obtained permission to work with Liverpool police. He was present when Detective Sergeant Bill Prendergast interviewed three petty criminals suspected of robbery and the re-sult was Who Me?, a programme subsequently used as a training film by the police.

Bill Prendergast, to become another close friend, had a fund of cases, four of which were dramatised and transmitted as a series called Jacks and Knaves, which won the 1961 Screenwriters' Guild Award for the best work in British dramatic television series and serials. This image of the police (different from Dixon of Dock Green) proved popular and the BBC asked for a weekly series. Troy Kennedy Martin, a young writer, went to Liverpool with Elwyn Jones, a BBC official, to consider it as a location. The result was Z-Cars. The series ran from 1960 to 1978, over 667

As the Sixties progressed stock-piling for a second channel (which opened in April 1964) began and a request was made for a trilogy, three plays with some common theme. Morris used Woman in Crisis to

cover With Love and Tears, the dormant script about meotally retarded children (he was aided in his research by the Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, the charity, later Mencap, with which Brian, now Lord, Rix has been long associated); another concerned the problems an elderly relative brings to a family; and the third, Husband and Wife, was about a professional woman

who gives up her job and feels restricted by domesticity. Wendy Craig and John Ronane were the young couple. Television in the Sixties differed from 1954 when Morris and Calder started their partnership, BBC 2 began. Com-mercial television had started in 1955 and was a competitor for material. Morris wrote The Reluctant Bandit, a serial based on his wartime experience in Italy, and then set up a new twiceweekly serial. He was told to investigate new towns. He found about a scaport with defecting McKenna as Lady Churchill. May 1996.

Russian sailors and punch-ups in the pubs. This proved too expensive. Instead he wrote the opening episodes of The Newcomers, set in an expanding town in East Anglia. It has been described as "the first soap", a debatable point, but it certainly appealed to a wide audieoce and made Wendy Richards a television personal-

ity as the young mother.
Less successful was The Doctors, about a GP practice. He also set up King of the River, based on Bob Roberts (played by Bernard Lee), who sailed one of the last Thames barges. In 1968, Morris began to think of himself as an inter-

viewer rather than a writer. This resulted in two series of People In Conflict, interviews to camera with people about their problems. Many thought this was an invasion of privacy hut the interviewees were all volunteers and like Morris be-lieved it would belp other people in similar situations.

In the early Seventies, Morris wrote a play, Walk With Desiry (The Gathering Storm in the United States), based on Winston Churchill's life in the Thirties, with Richard Burton

This was not top of the ratings in the UK but received the 1974 Edward L. Bernays Award in

the US. After retiring from the BBC in 1976, Morris worked paritime as an unqualified social worker, also appearing on York-shire Television as an interviewer in two series of Heart to Heart, a similar programme to People in Conflict. His work now was largely for Yorkshire Television, where his last series. Woman of Today, was recorded in 1988. This series was notable for the first televised interview with Alisoo Hargreaves, the woman mountaineer whn died on Everest last year. He did write plays again during his retirement from BBC, but failed

Always looking forward instead of back, Colin Morris cheerfully settled down to work in his garden and edit the magazine of his local residents' : sociation in Highgate, north London.

to find a producer.

June Averill

Colin Morris, actor, playwright, television documentary writer. born Liverpool 4 February 1910: married Viera Huelin (one son,

Percy Edwards

Jack Train, famous as Tommy Hanley's hihulous buddy Colonel Chinstrap, once introduced Percy Edwards to Gilbert Harding, the popular grump. "This is Percy Edwards," he said. "He imitates birds." "What does be do?" replied Harding.
"Fly?" Percy Edwards did just about everything else but fly: be bad a repertoire of about 153 wild birds, and that was without counting the animals. "I do it with my throat, bless your beart," he said - everyone's heart was hiessed with the countryman Edwards - "I don't just whistle."

It was a long road to the top. or a winding lane as he might have preferred to describe it, but without a doubt Percy Edwards was the finest animal and bird impressionist British show business ever knew.

He was born in loswich in 1908, one of eight children fathered by a master tailor who made uniforms for the Royal Naval College in Greenwich. The children attended Dorking Street Infants School, where Percy played his first part, in the Christmas play of Old Mother Hubbard. He was the dog.

"Very good, little Edwards." commented Miss Wilding.

His first interest in nature came when he built an aquarium out of old glass batteries, filling it with water beetles from nearby Roshmere Heath, while his education in bird life came from collecting the set of "British Wild Birds" from his father's Gold Flake cigarette Percy made his first public

stage appearance at the age of 11, imitating a chicken at the Church Lads Brigade concert. In 1922 he heard the wireless for the first time over a crystal set huilt by his friend, an old man who ran the local bookshop. Next year he brought oumber one of Radio Times, priced 2d. He was a cook in a small cafe at the time, a joh be sooo changed for one at Mesa's Oil Mills. It was from here that Jack Connell, an amateur comedian, ran the Regina Concert Party, and persuaded Percy to take part by stringing a sequence of his animal and bird impressions together into a 10-minute continuity. Percy did so, went down quite well, and, more impor-

The baritone Jack Reeves came oo dressed as a gypsy and sang, "I travel the road, who cares". Percy fell in love with the song and promptly adapted it into his

In 1928 Percy Edwards wrote to the BBC for an audition. At their studio in Savoy Hill, the a fee of £4. producer John Sharman, mastermind of the newborn Variety Department, gave him a chance. Edwards's willow warbler was so piercing it practically wrecked the microphooe. Sharman told him to turn his back

whilst whistling.
In 1929 Edwards made two hroadcasts in one week and thought his future was safely assured, especially as he met his broadcasting idol Stuart Hibberd, radio's original "Golden Voice" who announced the shows. It was a year before be was invited back. But when he was, he met Max Miller, the very popular "Cheeky Chappie" who would remain a good friend throughout his life.

In 1932 Edwards applied for an audition at the Windmill Theatre in Piccadilly. Not yet the famous "We Never Closed" theatre of wartime memory,

this was an all-day non-stop revue featuring pretty girls (not yet in the oude) and oewish comedians. Vivian Van Dam, the producer, liked Edwards's bird imitations and signed him on to play Goofy the Village Idiot, six shows a day, six days a week, for

Laura Henderson, who owned the Windmill told Edwards he had lost ber 10 shillings, a bet she had placed with Van Dam that his whistling act would not "go". In 1936, after six years'

courtship, Percy married Cecily, an apprentice dressmaker, and three years later volunteered for service in the Royal Air Force on the outbreak of the Second World War. He was rejected; his day job making ploughs was considered more important than flying, as it was work that could not be carried out by a woman replacement.

After the war he wrote once again to the BBC, suggesting his special talent might make for a suitable interview on their Saturday night special In Town Tonight. Roy Rich, a discjockey, not yet the bead of Light Entertainment, loter-

stant, painter, 1845; Andre Dernin,

viewed bim, and be was promptly picked op by Joan Gilbert, the somewhat bossy blonde interviewer of the televisioo programme Picture Page. His television debut led to a meeting with "Fishhawk", otherwise known as David Wolfe Murray, a much-admired authority on British wildlife. Fishhawk held the post of Television Liaison Officer and suggested that be and Edwards combine their talents for a series of wildlife programmes to be eonitled Toddy in the Country. The success of this led to more series, first Birds of a Feather, then - with the ornithologist Jack Fisher - Birds of London.

A slot on the Carrol Levis Discoveries show gave him a new billing line "The Pied Piper of Suffolk", and a regular slot fol-lowed on the top Sunday night radio series Variety Band Box. Programmes now came thick and fast: Vic Oliver gave him a chance but spoilt it by insisting that Edwards wear evening dress instead of his usual countryman's clobber. Music-hall dates came in, often with Max and a horse in Ray's a Laugh. Miller at the top of the bill, ce-

Edwards championed Miller for the rest of his life, insisting that the comedian's reputation as a mean man stemmed purefrom those that knocked In 1953 came the radio date

that made Percy Edwards's reputation. Leslie Bridgmont, the producer, booked him for a new situation comedy entitled A Life of Bliss. It starred David Tomlinson as David Alexander Bliss, the BBC's permanent bachelor boy; Edwards was hilled as the voice of Psyche, Bliss's dog. After six shows Tomlinson bowed out in favour of a theatrical tour. In came George Cole, and the series ran and ran, transferring to television in 1956. A buge success with over 100 shows, it only ran down because its creator, Godfrey Harrison, was nnable to cope with the pressure of writing a weekly half-hour.

Radio seemed to he Edwards's future oow. He played Tiny the retriever in the serialised scap opera Waggoners Walk, a cat in Educating Archie, As the surprise guest celebrity on What's My Line be provid-

ed animal ooises to represent the television team: a hlackbird for Lady Barnett, a dove for David Nixon, a kookaburra for Barbara Kelly and a stag at bay for Gilbert Harding. Television also made a documentary about his life, The Man Who Talks to Animals, which was introduced

by a young Esther Ranzen. In the world of cinema, producers found Edwards's special abilities not only perfect for sound effects, but money-saving too. He was a husky dog in Call of the Wild (1973), a bear in Man in the Wilderness, the ritular star of The Belstone Fox (1973) and Peter O'Toole's parrot in Man Friday (1976). He added a totally oew voice to his repertoire when be created the howl of a monster troglodyte in Joan Crawford's comeback picture Trog (1970).

As a veteran of variety he oow turned up oo Morecambe and Wise, as a quiz-setter in Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game and as the roar of a lion in a commercial for Campbells' meatballs. His last long run was back un his betoved radio where for five years be appeared on Charlie Chester's



the dog in A Life of Bliss

Sunday Soapbox, answering listeoers' questions about his beloved countryside.

When he guested on my own television series Looks Familiar (1981) he turned up one week early! "Never mind, bless your beart," he said. "I'll go down to Regeot's Park and teach the birds to whistle."

Denis Gifford

Percy Edwards, animal impressionist: born Ipswich I June 1908; married; died Hintlesham, Suffalk 7 June 1996.

Announcements for Gazette BURTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Caumy Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or fixed to 0171-293 2018, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (milices, functions, Forthconing marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing tor faced) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Count Ludwik Maria Lubicuski, of London SW15, chief of the wartime Polish Military Mission in Gibraltar, and father of the actress Rula Lenska, left estate valued at £192,628 net. Mr Peter Barker Howard May, of Liphook, Hampshire, the former Surrey and England cricketer, left estate valued at £76,756 net.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment
mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Herse Guards
Hans; for Battalion Scott Guards mounts the
Queen's Guard, at Buckinghant Palme, IL Norm
band provided by the Scots Guards.

Marriages Mr S. Mellor

The marriage took place on Saturday 8 June at St John's Church, Moortown, Leeds, between Stewart, only son of Mr and Mrs M. Mellor and Deborah, only daughter of Mr

tantly, found his signature tune.

and Mrs D. Cowan. Mr M. Redfero and Ms A. Reddick Alison Reddick and Michael Redfern

were married on Saturday 8 June 1996 in Woking. A reception will be held on 9 June 1997.

Birthdays

The Duke of Edinburgh, 75; Mr Brian Baldock, deputy chairman, Guin-ness plc, 62; Mr William Barr, former Rector, Ereter College, Oxford, 79; Mr Saul Bellow, author, 8t; The Right Rev Leslie Brown, former Bishop of St Edmandsbury and Ip-swich, 84; Mr Gordon Burus, televi-sion producer and presenter, 54; Mr Peter Butler MP, 45; Sir Bryan Cartledge, Principal of Linacre Col-lege, Oxford, 65; Sir Christopher Collett, former Lord Mayor of London, 65; Mr Peter Crampton, MEP, 64; Mr Robert Dewar, Ambassador

to Madagascar, 47; Sir Brinsley Ford, former Chairman, National Art-Collections Fund, 88; Sir Peter Gib-son, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 62; Mr Graham Greene, publisher, 60: Sir William Gordon Harris, civil engineer, 84; Mr Guy Harwood, racehouse trainer, 57; Miss June Haver, actress, 69; Sir Arthur Hawkins, former chairman, CEGB, 83; Dr Polly Hill, anthropologist, 82; Mr Lionel Jeffries, actor, 70; Mr Simon Jenkins, columnist, and former Editor of the Times, 53; Sir Geoffrey Otton, former senior civil servant, 69; Mr Thomas Pendry MP, 62; Mr Maurice Sendak, writer and illustrator, 68; Mr Bill Waddington, actor and comedian, 80; Maj-Gen Michael Walsh, former Chief Scout,

Anniversaries

Births: James Edward Smart, the Old Pretender, 1688; James Short, opti-cian and astronomer, 1710; John Morgan, physician, 1735; Charles Simon Catel, composer, 1773; Clara Anastasia Novello, soprano, 1818; Gustave Courbet, painter, 1819; Sir Edwin Arnold, poet, 1832; Nikolaus August Otto, inventor of the fourstreke internal combustion engine, 1832; Jean Joseph Benjamin Con-

painter, 1880; Frederick Loewe, composer, 1901; Sir Terence Mervyu Rattigan, playwright, 1911; Judy Garland (Frances Ethel Gumm), Garland (Frances Ethel Gumm), singer and actress, 1922; Ian Robert Maxwell (Ian Ludvik Hoth), pub-lisher, 1923. Deaths: Frederick I, Bar-barossa, Holy Roman Emperor, 1190; George I, king, 1727; Thomas Hearne, antiquary, 1735; André-Marie Ampère, physicist, 1836; Pierre Loti (Louis-Marie-Juliem Viaud), novelist and naval officer. 1923; Giacomo Matteoni, socialist leader, assassinated 1924; Frederick Theodore Albert Delius, composer, 1934; Sir Robert Laird Borden, statesman, 1937; Spencer Tracy, ac-tor, 1967. On this day: the first of the witches of Salem was hanged in Massachuseus, 1692; the first Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race was rowed, and won by Oxford, 1829: Wagner's opere Tristan und Isolde was first produced, Munich, 1865; the Bartle of Belleau Wood ended, 1918; "Alcoholics Anonymous" was founded, 1935; Italy declared war on Britain and France, 1940; Italy became a republic, 1946. Today is the Feast Day of St Bardo, St Bogumilus or Theophilus, St Getulius and his Companions, St Ithamar and St Landericus or Landry of Paris.

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the re-porters of the All England Law Reports.

menting their old friendship.

Child crime

L v DPP; T v DPP; W, GB and CH DPP; QB Div Ct (Otton LJ and Newman J) 2 May 1996. It was unnecessary for the prosecution to call independent

evidence regarding a child's perception of the seriousness of what be bad done in order to rebut the presumption of doli incapar. Police officers engaged in dealing with child suspects should be trained to ask direct questions designed to probe that issue without suggesting the answer the child might perceive the person in authority wished to hear, and in language suited to the age and literacy of the suspect. If this were adopted as the usu-al practice the answers might give the court a useful insight into the child's state of mind at

10 June 1996

only oeed to be called in exceptional cases. Thomas Bailey (Farrell, Matthews & Weir) for L; Nicholas Paul (Warren & Allen, Nottingham) for T; Malcolm Trousdale (Smith & Graham, Harde-pool) for W; Jane Waugh (Smith & Graham) for GH: Alec Burns (Smith & Graham) for CH; Stephen Ashurst

R v Home Secretary, ex p Venables, ex p Thompson; QB Div Ct (Pill L.J. Newman J) 2 May 1996.

(CPS) for the DPP.

The Home Secretary had no power to decide that a child convicted of murder had to serve a minimum period to satisfy the requirements of retribution and deterrence. Although a broad discretion was exercised by Secretaries of State when deciding when to release a child subject to the time of the offence, so that detention at Her Majesty's as interested parties.

CASE SUMMARIES

independent evidence would

pleasure under s 53(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, the sentence uoder that section was not of the same oature as a mandatory life sentence. The nature of detention during Her Majesty's pleasure did oot permit a tariff approach. Where a child was so detained, the Home Secretary had to keep the need for detention under regular

Edward Fitzgerald QC, Ben Emmerson (John Howell & Co. Sheffield) for Venables: Brian Higgs QC, Julian Nutter (Paul Rooney & Co. Liverpool) for Thompson, David Parauck QC, Mark Shaw (Tressury Solicitor) for the Home Secretary, Kublip Singh QC (Swepstone Walsh) for Associated Newspapers, Mirror Group Newspapers, the Independent, the Times, News Group Newspapers, Telegraph

Newspapers and Express Newspapers,

Landlord and tenant Kay-Green v Twinsectra Ltd; CA (Staughton, Aldous L.J. Sir John

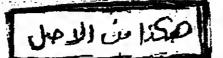
May) 15 May 1996.

The purpose of Pt 1 of the Landinrd and Tenant Act 1987 was to enable tenants of flats to huy their landlord's interest in the building if the landlord proposed in sell it to someone else, and to huy it from the purchaser if the landlord had already sold it. Nowhere did the statute expressly say that tenants had that right nyainst the new landlord, but it was clear that s 12 was concerned with the right of tenants to compel a sale by a new landlord. The court concluded that the landlord's duty to give ef-

the Act. David Neuberger QC, Edward Denehan (J.E. Kennedy & Co. Harrow on the Hill) for the applicant; Kim Lewison QC, Simon Brillian (Wallace & Ptrs) for the

fect to a purchase notice was

found expressly or implicity in



Granada plays a waiting game on sales as hotel business perks up

When Granada emerged vic-torious from the rip-roaring £3.9bn battle for control of the Forte catering and hotel empire, a stampede to sell unwanted assets was confidently

After all, it was reasoned, Granada needed to cut its debt mountain as quickly as possible and would be forced to hack

Nearly five months later and the leisure group has still to indulge in a rush of deals. Helped, no doubt, by low interest rates, it has demonstrated the wisdom of playing a waiting game.

So far the only big disposal has been the sale of 60 of the smaller hotels under the White Hart banner to Regal Hotels for £121.7m. During the battle Regal had got near to doing a

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originally agreed. first to go, remain in Granada's fold; so do the Exclusive and Meridien hotels, which had looked early candidates for the chop.

Indecd chairman Gerry Robinson's more recent pronouncements suggest Granada could be falling in love with what is a glamorous but not always rewarding industry. He still intends to sell the

Exclusive trophy hotels but in a remarkable somersault is, at least for the time being, keep-ing the Meridien portfolio. In the heat of battle Mr Robinson promised to unload both chains.

He also said Forte's Savoy Hotel and Alpha Airports stakes would go. They too re-

favourable than what had been tance to rush into sales is understandable. He could, how-The motorway service areas, which were expected to be the of the Exclusive deals, although Sir Rocco Forte, the former Forte chief who plans to start

a Forte Mark II hotel empire. is thought unlikely to still be in the running. It is possible - just - that Granada will have details of hotel sales when it delivers its the final, final figures of the interim results on Wednesday. It should be able to give an indication of whether Exclusive

sales are near, if not details of Interim profits, with a firsttime Forte contribution, could approach £00m with the Forte

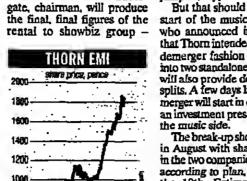
hotels chipping in £30m. Granuda's shares bave bad a strong run, Outstripping the market and prompting some to ponder the surely remote pos-



STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN Stack market reparter

week - for the last time. Tomorrow Sir Colin Soutb-



showing a heady £100m or so

jump to, say, £525m.
But that should be only the start of the music. Sir Colin. who announced in February that Thorn intended to join the demerger fashion by dividing into two standalone companies, will also provide details of the splits. A few days later the demerger will start in earnest with an investment presentation for

The break-up should be final in August with share dealines in the two companies, if all goes according to plan, starting on the 19th. Estimates of the

vision. Predators, goes the conventional wisdom, are just waiting to descend on the sexy music company, with Disney

among the front runners. Until the much-strongerthan-expected US payroll figures sent shares spinning on Friday, last week had been quiet and uneventful for the market. But the prospect of higher US interest rates so soon after the latest Kenneth Clarke cut had Footsie in ragged retreat. It will take a great deal of home-produced excitement - and there is a raft of Whitehall statistics which could offer encouragement - to overcome the US stunner and help shares to meet the more

bullish predictions which circulate.

intriguing to see how it has of part of its US restaurant been influenced. There is also operations. the complication of the sale of

its shares in National Grid. Profit forecasts, therefore, are spread wide. Greig Middieton is top of the range, shooting for £210.9m; Nat West Securities is on £202.2m and UBS brings up the rear with £172.1m. Last year's figure

was £214m. Two dairy groups are in the reporting parade. Both are suffering from the decline in the support the average family now offers its daily milkman

and from the BSE disaster. Yet Unigate, today, is expected to more than double profits to £121.5m and if the proceeds of the sale of its third share of Natricia, the Dutch

are forecasting a relatively short independence for the music di-

operations.
With such riches, acquisitions must be on the cards. If not, then Unigate should indulge in a shareholder-friendly

special dividend. The group has benefited from favourable commodity prices and bedding down acquisitions. But BSE has taken

its toll on the shares. Northern Foods, tomorrow, will also display a spectacular advance - from £27.9m to £125m. Last year's figures were devastated by provisions. Its shares have also suffered from BSE hut Alan Erskine at Nat West says: "The prospect of a cattle cull sufficient to impact ceded. Throw into the equation

deal with Forte but with sibility that it could be con-Utilities again feature loudly baby food maker, are taken the benefits of a chastened and more realistic management group's value stretch from £19 in the weck's results. East into account the figure will be Granada in command it was templating another major team and it's possible (just) to forced to renegotiate and come swoop - there is even talk of a around £341.5m. With the hotel industry en-Midlands is the first of the electricity groups to report year's profits after the first of Pro-Pearson bid. away with a slightly changed joying its best season for many package which looked less years, Mr Rohinson's reluctakeover bid could dramatically change the calculations. Many After the Nutricia sale, Uniargue the shares are fairly joying its best season for many gate's cash hoard should be Thorn EMI will also star this Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is lest year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the state price. The price/semings (P/E) ratio is the state price divided by last year's earnings per state, soluting exceptional terms. Other detailer r Ex rights x Exclinitional a Ex all u United Securities Meritet a Suspended pp Parity Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. ‡ AM Stook

Source: FT information The Independent Index The Index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Sear, Simply dial 0891 123 336, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the intest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below. Anyone with a tone-diel telephone can use this service. For a detailed description independent index, including its portfolio (scility, phone 0891 123 For essistance, cell our helptine 0171 873 4375 (9.30am - 5.30pm). **Interest Rates** Prime Discount Fed Funds Spade 10-Day Repa Senden Repo (Ave) 250% 450% 870% **Extractive Industries** Oll Exploration Today, a Goldsmiths jeweller Electricity is one of the Selection of the control of the cont | Second Colors | Second Color | Compared ### ACT PROPERTY OF THE PROPER 6494gmaguagasanangafunnadavagasyunganadasanada 1886umik 1860milianani 1860miliana 1860mil Building/Constitution of the property of the p best places to buy a Rolex. In 1919 it was the only place. G·O·L·D·S·M·I·T·H·S The proportion of the property See Harmin 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 - 1984 1148 ... tonitan de la comentace de la comenta **Government Securities** - 289 - 270 - 120 - 287 - 287 - 287 - 287 - 287 - 287 - 287 - 287 - 287 Shorts

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Rate fears cast a shadow over shares

DIANE COYLE **Economics Editor**

A record number of big investors plan to sell UK shares because of fears that interest rates will have to rise next year. according to a survey published

The balance of fund managers planning to sell rather than huy shares, at 39 per cent, is the biggest since the survey. by investment bank Merrill Lynch and Gallup, began in

Bijal Shah, Merrill Lynch's strategist, said: "It looks like we are having a repeat of previous

cycles, with a boost to the economy ahead of the election."

This pessimism in the financial markets about inflation prospects will cast a shadow over Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's annual Mansion House speech on Wednesday. The speech follows the weekend meeting of Treasury ministers and officials at Dorneywood to start work on this year's Bud-

get strategy.

Market sentiment has shifted considerably, even though there is a respectable economic case for lower interest rates." Neil Mackinnon, chief economist at Citibank, said.

prise reduction in base rates by emphasising the strong exchange rate and absence of any cost pressures.

The pound has gained 5 per cent against a range of other currencies so far this year, making UK exports more expensive at the same time that key export markets bave weakened.

This week's flood of official economic statistics is likely to help the Chancellor make his case. Analysts expect figures for producer and retail prices to sbow n further slowdown in inflation last month, while growth

In his speech Mr Clarke is ex-pected to defend last week's sur-is expected to have remained unchanged in April.
In addition, April's manu-

facturing output is expected to have been very weak as firms continued to try to run down excess stocks. The only statistic that could send a warning signal on inflation is May unemployment, which analysts think continued on its donward trend.

However, other evidence continues to paint a picture of consumer demand gathering steam. "We are in a miniboom," said Mike Dicks, UK economist at Lehman Brothers.
There is a real danger the next

government will have to raise in- al of the FLA, said: The feel- up in the number of transactions terest rates and tighten fiscal

policy at the same time." Demand for high street credit was at a record in April, the Finance and Leasing Association reports today, while total consumer credit was the highest for six months. Member firms provided £2bu

in the total, demand for retail instalment credit and personal loans hit new highs, up 57 and 48 per cent respectively on their year-earlier levels. Consumer finance for car purchase grew 25 per cent to £724m. Martin Hall, director gener-

new consumer credit. With-

earlier upturn in business finance had not been sustained. The lack of investment remains a serious worry," he added.

The respected pay analyst
Incomes Data Services predicts

in a report out today that in-flation might start rising back to-wards 3 per cent in the autumn. The cold spring and lack of rain could lead to higher food prices. A separate report out today predicts a significant revival in housing market activity, espe-cially in East Anglia, the East Midlands and Wales. The pick-

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Knightsbridge shoppers who made absolutely fabulous prof-

its on the flotation of Harvey

Nichols in April could soon be

adding Harrods to their port-

folio if the famous London

store goes ahead with plans to

The business, owned by the

controversial Fayed hrothers, is

seeking new money for an am-

bitious diversification into hotels

and housing costing several hundred million pounds. Given

the market's current love affair

with department stores, Harrods

is expected to be valued at over

£2bn if it gains a listing in both

The company would not con-

firm that it had appointed US

investment hank Lehman

Brothers to handle the float, but

it is known that it has taken on

Sir Tim Bell's Lowe Bell

financial public relations com-

pany, which is experienced at

inging companies to market.

A Harrods spokesman said

yesterday: "At the conclusion of

another successful year of trad-

reviewing a number of options for the next stage of its planned

espansion. As yet, no firm deci-

sions have been made and there

is no timetable. In the event that a public offering is chosen as an

option, an appropriate an-nouncement will be made."

The group, which includes a string of shops within shops in

Japan and upmarket shirtmaker
Turnbull & Asser, is understood to have made profits of between £71m and £73m in and flats.

London and New York.

gain a stock market quote.

should ensure that prices do not fall in any region, according to forecasting group Cambridge Econometrics. good factor is obviously coming back." But he warned that the

Amid market rumours suggesting speculators have been using futures markets to bid up the pound's exchange rate, the most famous speculator of all has issued a new call for in-ternational regulation of the currency markets. In an inter-view published in news magazine Der Spiegel today, George Soros says: "If people like myself can cause the collapse of a monetary system, then something is wong with the system."

the year to January, up from £56m before. One insider sug-

gested "it would not be fanci-

ful" if it was making £100m by

market, it will mark an amaz-

ing rehabilitation for the

Fayeds, who were accused in a

Department of Trade and In-

dustry report of having "mis-

represented their origins,

wealth, business interests and

resources" hefore they took

control of Harrods and the

since-floated House of Fraser

stores group. In 1994, they ap-

peared to lose their last chance

of clearing their names when the

European Court of Human

Rights rejected a claim that the

report had violated their rights.

cover two of its depositories now

no longer used for their origi-

nal purpose of storing furniture.

At Trevor Square, hard by the main Knightsbridge store, the

group has gained planning per-

mission to convert the seven-

storey warehouse into a

144-room five-star hotel mod-

elled on the Ritz in Paris, one

assets on which he spent \$150m

in the 1980s. At present the only

residents of the store are the

eight Friesian stallions which

pull Harrods' carriages and de-

livery vehicles to its royal and

The other main redevelop-

ment prospect is the depository

and 11 acres in Barnes, west

London, where the company

has put in a planning applica-tion for 250 high-quality houses

other customers.

Harrods' expansion plans

If Harrods does come to

the year 2000.

be in store

for Harrods

chief says pension help on the way

PETER RODGERS Financial Editor

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

David Rowland, chairman of Lioyd's, yesterday pledged that new proposals to help the hardest hit members of the market with the equivalent of a pension were definitely in the pipeline. He said: "We have made a commitment and I am confident

we will discharge it."
In an interview with the lhdependent, Mr Rowland made clear that the plan did not depend - as widely assumed - on successful extraction of additional money from Lloyd's

agents.
The £3.1bn rescue offer Lloyd's is to put to members in the summer is largely about offering credits to members so they could write off their debts, Mr Rowland said.

"If you are 70 years old and you have paid all your losses and you haven't got anything left and you cannut afford even a minimum standard of living. £100,000 in credits is not actually going to help. We felt very strongly that it was desirable to offer some minimum level of

Lloyd's is also negotiating with agents to improve their £200m contribution to the rescue plan. "The fund we put together has still got some bits and pieces around the edges to be completed," Mr Rowland said. But whatever the outcome, the hardest hit members seem cer-

tain to receive special help. He gave no figures, but the cost of the pension plan is reputed to be less than £50m. Pressure groups representing Lloyd's names believe the ben-efits will be in line with thos that would have been received under the former hardship

Several have made it a condition of voting in favour of the offer when it is put to names in July and August.

Mr Rowland refused to say ceed, but he helieved improvements in the offer already announced made a "yes" substantially more likely. Asked whether Lloyd's would go ahead without the approval of US names, he said: "I can't give you a categorical answer. I have absolute determination that this is so much in the interests of the members, including the North American members, that we will find a way." Interview, page 19

'Sweetheart' Energy sales under threat

MAGNUS GRIMOND

A new cloud appeared above today's publication of the prospectus for the £1.5bn-£2bn flotation of British Energy after it emerged that Labour was ready to reform what it claimed were "sweetheart" arrangements under which it sells most

of its electricity. The news came as the stateowned nuclear electricity generator prepared to reveal that shareholders would receive an initial dividend yield compara-ble to the 19 per cent available to investors in the recent Rail-

track flotation, John Battle, Labour spokesa bad deal for shareholders and taxpayers. He gave notice that a Labour government would look again at the operation of the electricity price pool, which sets marginal prices, given the guarantee it makes to ensure British Energy receives the best available price for its

The terms under which the pool operates ensure that all tions are always connected to the National Grid as part of the so-called "base load supply". The price it receives fluctuates

with the pool price.
Mr Battle said: "I think it's not working and most people believe it's not working. It is a sweetheart deal for nuclear and I see no reason why that should

He claimed the Government was desperate to sell the husi-

IN BRIEF

performing outlets.

being sold for less than the cost of Sizewell B, the Suffolk nuclear power station commissioned earlier this year, and yet it was generating large amounts of cash. Meanwhile, the Government is keeping responsihility for the older Magnox

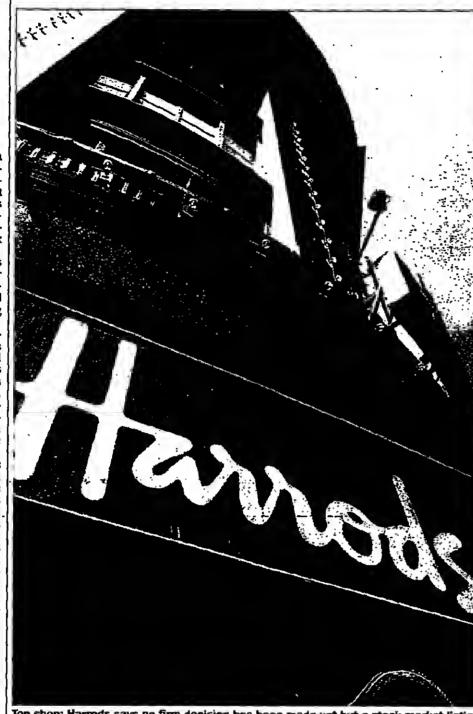
power stations. "By and large, the liabilities are being left with the taxpayer for 135 years so they are keep-ing hack the real liabilities and selling off the cash-generating assets," Mr Battle said.

But advisers to British Encrgy said Labour's criticism of the Pool "sounded muddled" as all participants shared in the risks and benefits of the system man, called for the flotation to equally. The prospectus will, be abandoned, describing it as however, include a section devoted to Labour policy pro-nouncements on British Energy, most of which have been hostile.

As with Railtrack, investors are set to achieve a high initial yield on the shares after the flotation. The first two dividends will be payable in January and July of next year, well before the second instalment is due on the shares in September. Sources putting the two payments to-gether, would be similar to the 18.8 per cent achieved by Railtrack investors, equivalent to a rate of 25 per cent on an annualised hasis. Analysts expect the trading yield to settle at between 7.5 and 8 per cent.

Today's document will reveal the size of the first instalment to be paid on the shares, with small investors receiving a discount, although the size will ness to finance tax cuts. It was not be set until 26 June.

Expansion plans: Fayed brothers review options to finance move into hotels and housing £2bn float may



Top shop: Harrods says no firm decision has been made yet but a stock market listing in London and New York could give it a valuation of over £2bn

The Post Office is in discussions about offering banking services at its counters to customers of the Co-operative Bank. It is also considering similar links with other financial institutions.

If the deal goes ahead it would be the latest step in the Post Office's strategy of using its 20,000-branch network to offer a wider range of financial and other services.

Post Office Counters has already taken advantage of the pledge of greater commercial freedom made by the Government when privatisation was abandoned to expand into other areas such as travel insurance sales. Earlier this year it announced plans to sell scheduled airline tickets over its counters.

It also markets advertising services, exploiting the fact that 28 millon people a week use the 1.500 main post offices. A recent deal that caused contro-

versy involved handing samples of a Nestlé cereal to mothers

collecting child benefit. A trial of a link-up with the Co-op would first of all take place in a limited number of branches. The Co-op has only 149 hranches, concentrated in the North-west, although it has an extensive 24-bour telephone banking services for personal customers. Last year it also

launebed telephone banking for small business customers. An arrangement with the Post Office has an obvious appeal, as it has more branches than all the clearing banks put together despite the closure of some rural offices. Many post offices also open on Saturdays. Most banks have reduced their branch networks in recent years, although the Co-op plans to

open nine more. Retail deposits at the Co-op grew by 24 per cent to £1.9bn last year, and it has 2 million

Co-op seeks PO's | Now Virgin looks at | stamp of approval mortgages by phone surance products today, in-cluding term assurance, critical illness policies and mortgage

Virgin, the airline to cola conglomerate, is considering plans to launch a telephone mortgage operation to bolster its bur-geoning financial services business. The company believes mortgages could fit alongside the growing range of financial products it offers over the phone, including personal equity plans and life insurance. But Martin Campbell, prod-

uct development manager at Virgin, stressed yesterday a final decision had not been taken on whether to proceed with a mortgage lending operation. If it is, any launch would follow that of Virgin's telephone-

based personal pensions service, expected to come on stream in the late autumn. One option might be to team up with an existing mortgage lender, with Virgin broking the deal. Virgin's move comes as it unveils a new stream of life in-

policies will prove as popular among consumers as its low-cost personal equity plans, which have taken more than £325m since launch last year.

Mr Campbell said: "Clearly, if we were planning to add mortgages to our portfolio, they were the control of the control

protection cover. It hopes its

they would fit quite easily alongside our other products.

They would allow customers

to use one of our Peps as the repayment vehicle and to protect their payments with a repayment mortgage protector plan."

Virgin's decision to investigate mortgage lending by phone

follows the growing success of other new entrants, including Bradford & Bingley, into the new market. In the past year, Bradford & Bingley has lent more than £100m of funds at its market-leading variable rate of 5.99 per cent.

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In association with THE INDEPENDENT

ahead of the Government's latest white paper on competitiveness. Katharine Wakelin of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research finds that companies with a record of innovations are more likely to export and to export a higher proportion of their output than companies with a weak record. STOCK MARKETS FT-SE 100

• Boots is set to take full control of Do It All, the ailing chain

of DIY stores, later this week. The cost of increasing its stake to 100 per cent will be an estimated £50m payment to its partner. WH Smith. Under the terms of the joint venture agreement, Boots has first refusal of the WH Smith stake, which Bill

Cockburn, chief executive, is keen to dispose of. Do It All's trading losses have amounted to £76.6m during the past four years. Boots is tikely to try to sell the sites of some of the worst-

· Asda has launched a new attack on retail price maintenance in

non-prescription medicines by halving the cost of Anadin Paracetamol in its 207 stores. The retail group claims that margins of

over 50 per cent on the product rank it alongside luxury goods such as high fashion and jewellery in expense. An attempt last October to force the abandonment of the medicine price-fixing rules

by slashing the cost of 82 brand-name vitamins and minerals was

rebuffed when two manufacturers brought an injunction forcing Asda to return prices to their previous level. Last month, the group

• KPMG, the administrators of collapsed retail group Facia, ex-

pect to succeed in finding buyers for Sock Shop and one of Facia's four other retail chains this week. The talks, already at an ad-

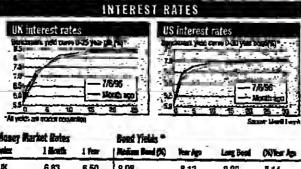
• Innovation is the key factor explaining a company's export per-

formance, according to new academic research published days

took its comptaint to the European Commission.

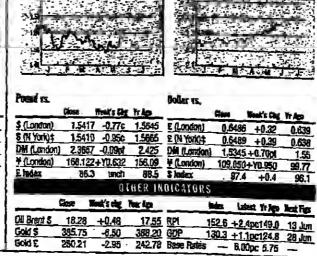
vanced stage, will continue today.

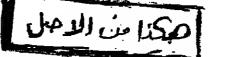
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Chancellor pushing at the limits on base rates

GAVYN DAVIES

'If we are going to set twin objectives for monetary policy low inflation and output stabilisation the least the Treasury can do is to tell

the Bank about it'

It is now believed with unshakeable firm—
Iness that the Chancellor was right to reject Eddie George's advice to raise base rates in May 1995 describe the first that the system), the rule states base

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| put in May 1995, despite the fact that, a year later, the Government's own inflation target (2.5 per cent on the underlying rate) continues to be missed by a significant margin. Admittedly, this target was intended to apply to "the end of the Parliament", but that is

a detail. The events of the past year bave proved that the body politic does not accept that inflation should be the only objective of monetary policy, despite the clear marching orders the Treasury has given to the Bank

If we are going to set twin objectives for monetary policy – low inflation and output stabilisation – the least the Treasury can do is to tell the Bank about it. But even in this context, is the stance of policy about right, following last week's quarter point cut in base rates? On 28 May, this column outlined the "Taylor Rule" for setting monetary policy. This rule, which is being intensively studied in the Treasury and the Bank, produces an optimal level of hase rates by reference to an automatic formula linking interest rates to inflation and the output gap in the economy, not just the former. At present, the Taylor Rule suggests base rates should be 5.9 per cent (see below), insignificantly different from the Chancellor's new setting of 5.75

However, this bald statement conveys a false sense of precision, since one of the inputs to the Taylor Rule — the output gap
— can only be measured with a wide margin
of uncertainty. For every 1 per cent that out-

rates should be set 0.5 per cent below equi-librium. Hence a measurement error of 2-3 per cent on the output gap can lead to serious error in the setting of monetary policy.

How likely is such a large error in esti-mating the output gap? This was the subject of the latest report of the Chancellor's Forecasting Panel, coincidentally published on the same day as the base rate cut. The more the panel thought about the output gap, the more elusive the term became. For the majority of the panel, the preferred defini-tion of the output gap is the difference be-tween actual and equilibrium output, where the latter means that level of output consistent with stable inflation and a sustainable

balance of payments.
The problem comes in pinning down the concept of equilibrium ontput in practice. In particular, what elements of the economic structure should we hold constant when seeking to measure it? Mar-tin Weale of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research argued that, in principle, everything in the economic structure should be allowed to vary in the very long run, in which case labour productivity in the UK could be allowed to rise to the level currently implied by global best practice - say the level achieved in the United States. This would imply

below that in the US. Bnt, as Mr Weale would readily admit, this is not what most people mean when they refer to the output gap. Instead, they have in mind something much shorter-term.

After debating this for quite a while, most of us on the panel concluded that it makes sense to define two separate time periods when measuring equilibrium output. A long-run equilibrium exists in which the cap-ital stock has been brought to its desired level, and in which the level of unemployment is at the "natural" rate required to stabilise wage inflation. It may take many years for the economy to return to this equilibrium once it has been disturbed from it.

However, a shorter-term equilibrium also

exis	ts, in which	the capital	stock is not a	the estin
Wise perso	ns' estimates	of the out	out gap & poten	tial growth
			Potential growth	
Barker	1.5-2	2-2.5	9 3 year and 3	2.25
Songton Davies	2.5 0.5-1	19/2 2-3	2.75-3	2.25 2-2.25
			45	3
Rosewell Made	-0.25-1	0-5 163.	2-3 2.75-3.25	2.3 25-275
Average	17	3.2	3.2	2.4
Range (and pee	is), 3/8-3	- 157		27/83
Rance (full)	-0.25-3	0-7	2-5	2-3

natural rate. This distinction reflects the familiar assumption in economics that the labour input can be more readily adjusted to its desired level than the capital stock.

This then leads naturally to the concept of "speed limit" for the growth in the economy. Êven when output is well below its longterm trend, policymakers need to be cautious about allowing output to expand too rapidly, since companies need to be given time to increase their capital stock to its long-run desired level. Thus inflation can rise even when output is well below trend, but only if the adjustment hack to trend occurs gradually. What does all this imply for the present

situation? The accompanying table shows the estimates made by panel members for the short- and long-run output gap, and the speed at which the economy can expand over the next three to five years without generating extra inflation. For all the theoretical differences between panel members, the empirical estimates for these three key concepts did not differ much. On average, the panel thought that the short-run output gap is 1.7 per cent, while the long-run gap is 3.2 per cent. This implies the economy can grow by more than 3 per cent per annum over the next three to

panel's conclusions would appear to give the Chancellor plenty of cover for his latest decision to cut hase rates. In fact, if we plug the panel's estimate for the short-run output gap (1.7 per cent) into the Taylor Rule, we get the result (quoted above) that the "correct" level of base rates today should be 5.9 per cent. But if we plug the panel's estimate to the long-run output gap (3.2 per cent) into the Taylor Rule, then we find the "correct" level for base rates is as low as 5.1 per cent. The Chancellor is probably blissfully unaware of this fact, but his remark that UK real interest rates are still much higher than those in the rest of the EU suggests he may have something similar in mind. For example, if he wants the level of real rates in the UK to come into line with Germany's, base rates would need to fall under 5 per cent.

business

At anything approaching that point, I would certainly part company with Mr Clarke. We should not blithely assume that the long-run output gap can be quickly closed. For short-run policy, the short-run gap is the more relevant, and on present policy settings, economic growth could easily be exceeding the speed limit by the year-end. Furthermore, we are still supposed to be fol-lowing an inflation objective, not the compromised inflation/growth objective which is implicitly huilt into the Taylor Rule, I have no doubt that, should he be inclined to overlook any of these points, the Chancellor will be forcibly reminded of them by the Govfive years while still managing to | ernor in future monetary meetings.

Man who drew the short straw tells Peter Rodgers the end is in sight

The challenge of bringing Lloyd's back from the brink

Lloyd's of London on the brink of success, David Rowland, the chairman, is refusing to give hostages to fortune.

You only believe it is done when you have actually done it. This is the higgest financial reconstruction in the world and there are as many moving parts as you could imagine," be says, refusing to be drawn into predicting that the deal will defi-

It's all right for you to believe that, but not for me," he adds with a wry smile.

If Mr Rowland does pull it off at the key votes in the summer, as seems highly likely, be will find his reputation transformed. The man who drew the short straw and found himself fighting a desperate three-year rearcome the bero who kept a names in court actions per- able ability to get close to the £27bn business on its fect against all odds.

Those odds are certainly moving ln Lloyd's favour. A Mori opinion poll recently showed a large majority of members are likely to accept member firms that something the offer of compensation for

the disasters of the past. Straw polls after each meeting during Lloyd's international road shows have given much the same result, says Mr Rowland.

The story of how Lloyd's stopped digging itself ever deeper into a hole of losses £8bn deep will take some unravelling over years to come. One important factor seems to have been Mr Rowland's ability to think instinctively and quickly a market total of £10on. on his feet, both in public and

at private meetings. There have been moments at mass meetings of thousands of Lloyd's members - the names in the Royal Albert Hall and elsewhere when the rescue has hung in the balance.

Until you have experience of handling some of these very hig meetings with extremely angry people in them you don't know if you can do it. Nobody can teach you, says Mr Rowland, whose long years as a broker and previous job as chairman of Sedgwick, one of the biggest hrokers, had not prepared him for what he had to face.

Observers of his performances praise his adroit reactions and stendiness under fire, a quality noticeable from the opening of his first meeting of members at the Albert Hall. "I said good afternoon, ladies

and gentlemen, and literally at that moment from the gallery a voice rang out - liar' - and I thought, I haven't said anything yet. But you just have to keep going, to plough on."
Though the Lloyd's saga has

been wrapped up in obscure technicalities that only the most dedicated can possibly follow, Mr Rowland identifies the simplest and most obvious of turnmg points in its fortunes that made the rescue possible: "The most important thing is that this place started making money again. If that hadn't happened we would be nowhere.

"We demonstrated that we had a business that could make returns, and we held our clients amazingly during this period." Lloyd's is expected to make £2.5bn profit for 1993-95.

guard action on behalf of what seemed a disreputable hunch of loss-making insurers will be-sounding success of Lloyd's and who had shown a remark-

THE MONDAY INTERVIEW

DAVID ROWLAND

far bigger than the derisory

£900m first offer in 1993 was re-

quired to clear the debris of the

past. That first offer was re-

jected, though by a surprising-

The second significant turn-ing point Mr Rowland identifies

was the change in the rules that

ended a long tradition, by allowing limited liability investors

into the market. There is now

£3bn of this corporate capital in

Mr Rowland says: "We

showed to the world that a lot

of people wanted to invest in

this husiness. This is an infinitely

that, despite names' well-known

liability down to the last cufflink, many people including himself did not realise until

Lloyd's was threatened with collapse that unlimited liabili-

ty also meant that while you

could resign from the market,

you could never quit. Lloyd's li-abilities follow you until the end

sweet words from me."

actually worked.

ly narrow margin.

of your days, Mr Rowland says. This is because resigning mem-bers reinsure outstanding liahilities with syndicates that remain in the market. If Lloyd's, as reinsurer, were to fail, any claims would revert to the orig-

"The strange thing is how people cloud their minds to some of the reality. I don't think I realised. I thought that if I resigned from Lloyd's, that

Mr Rowland pays fulsome tribute to the team effort involved in rescuing the market. But that team appeared to be breaking down earlier this year when Peter Middleton resigned to go to Salomon Brothers, an unwelcome surprise to Mr Rowland Mr Middleton was the blunt-spoken chief executive

angry names. In a polite rebuke, Mr Rowland says: "I just happened to think that you should not bail out of something as important as this. I told

him that. It was absolutely my mistake to assume other peoples' motivations are the same as your own. Peter saw this as a job and was offered what he considered a better job - fine! Other colleagues have a certain passion and commitment to what is happening that goes be-youd that." Luckily, Lloyd's had recruited a potential successor in Ron Sandler, and no lasting damage was done.

At this point the differences of motivation between a professional manager such as Mr Middleton and a passionately committed insurance man who has spent his entire life in the husiness become stark.

more powerful weapon than Mr Rowland says: "My mo-tivation is quite different [from The limited liability proposal Peter's]. I have been 37 years an came from a task force report put together by a team under Mr Rowland, while he was insurance broker - not in the market, but of the market. Of course, I have lots of strong feelchairman of Sedgwick. The task ings about it. It would be ab-solutely disgraceful in the truest sense of the word to have alforce revealed astonishing ignorance among insurance practitioners of the way their market lowed Lloyd's to destroy itself Even Mr Rowland admits or to be destroyed."

Even to the last, suspicion and bitterness run deep among members. For example, Mr Rowland rejects allegations that Lloyd's was playing games with the figures this year, suddenly finding an unexpected £1.2bu to top up the offer. The market's contribution was raised from £2.8bn to £3.1bn and the cost to

names of financing Equitas, the reinsurance vehicle that will ring-fence past liabilities, plummeted by £900m to £1bo in the space of two months. Perhaps the firmest sign that

Lloyd's really believes it will get the offer through is that Mr Rowland is already planning to spend his next and final year as chairman selling the market's services world-wide.

As for the executive team, he has bas been telling them: "If you think when we are through this we are going to have a hol-iday, I think we will have 24 hours off and then get down to the real job."



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The Exchange is to offer

companies on its main and alternative markets a free facilirectly to the regulatory news

At the moment more than 70 per cent of the 3,000 anouncements a week issued on the screens arrive by fax as hard copy, which has to be retyped

time and leaves room for errors. Recently the results of the Pelican Group were wrongly in-put and a correction had to be transmitted an hour later. Publication delays can build up to a result of a new service to be a couple of hours during heavy

news periods. From August, companies and their agents are to be offered new data processing software a more effective deterrent ty to transfer announcements and a free modem to link them to the Exchange, speeding up the process and eliminating errors, except those made by

companies. Some companies do transmit directly but the software is old and it is not possible to format

into the computers, which takes tables, which is why so many still time and leaves room for errors. The new software will run on Microsoft Windows and will automatically convert an-nouncements to the format required by the Exchange. Separately, John Kemp-

Welch, chairman of the Stock Exchange, has called for changes in legislation to create against insider trading and fraud. The law had not kept pace with the ability of technology to monitor transactions.
The burden of proof need-

ed to secure convictions in cas-

es of insider trading remains too

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ALLIED MARKETING

SCIENCE

Global warming: the jury's still out

Recent climate changes could be human-made or simply natural variability: a final verdict eludes the world's climatologists, writes Bill Burroughs

ast Wednesday, after oearly a decade of intense deliberation by the world's leading cligovernmental Panel on Climate changes. This approach requires knowledge of the three-dimensional clusions. Are we on the brink of devastating global warming, triggered by the hurning of fossil fuels, which might ruio agriculture in developing countries and thus cause famine and mass starvation? All the panel would say was: "The halance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate through emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases". Why, after so much effort, and against the hackground of 1995 heing the warmest year on record, and with activities will differ from natural satellite pictures of huge icebergs being carved off Antarctica, do we get such a cautious conclusion?

The reasons for caution go to the heart of scientific advice on complex issues. Oo the face of it, the rise in global temperature of around 0.5°C since the mid-19th century is incontrovertible. There are, however, worrving discrepancies between different measurements of temperatures around the world. Furthermore, knowledge of how the climate can shift of its own accord is still sketchy. Finally, our understanding of how human activities are altering the climate, how this will vary from place to place, and how it differs from natural variability, is incomplete.

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The IPCC cooclusioo is the product of a combined assault on these uncertainties. It relies on matching the predictions of computer models matologists, the Inter- of the global climate with observed variations in temperature - not only how the temperature varies around the world, hut also how the temperature change from ground level up through the various layers of the atmosphere. Other data required include the changes in precipitatioo (rain and snowfalt), and the incidence of extreme weather events. If the approach, often termed "fingerprinting", is to succeed, the computer modellers also need to understand how the impact of human

> variations in the climate. The scientific debate on the scale of global warming hinges on the limited geographical coverage of the early records, the oon-standard nature of early measurements and discrepancies between recent observations using different technologies. There is oo way round the spotty nature of the early records. Most observations are limited to parts of the land masses in the northern hemisphere until the mid 19th century.

> Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) have been available since around 1850, but there are huge gaps in the early observations. Worse still, there is a sudden jump around 1941 between the records of SSTs and air tem

peratures. Recent research has attributed this to an undocumented change in the measurement technique.

The temperature of the sea surface was measured in the simplest of fashions: a sailor would drop an empty hucket on a rope over the side of the ship, and measure the temperature of the water recovered. But during the Second World War it became too dangerous to collect samples from over the side at night and so they switched to relying on engine air-inlet temper-atures. Extensive detective work by Chris Folland and David Parker at the UK Met Office Hadley Centre, Bracknell, shows that the raw temperature data have to be "adjusted" by factors ranging from 0.11°C in 1856 to 0.42°C in 1940 in order to make allowances for such changes of technique and ensure all the data is consistent. This work highlights the challenge of using early instrumental records.

Once the corrections have been made so that recent data are comparable with the early measuremeots, a rise in global temperatures over the period is still observed. But the correction factor for 1940 is disturbingly large. There is also a debate about recent temperature treods. Measurements from space show a much smaller warming than surface-based observations.

The potential of the global climate to change of its own accord, however, is the real joker in the pack. The more we find out about past changes the greater its capacity to spring surprises



Though 1995 was the hottest year on record, the global climate has sprung such surprises on us before

that hefore 10,000 years ago the climate was capable of sudden large shifts, but also that more recent rel-atively orderly changes such as the warm period around 1,000 years ago (the "Medieval Climatic Optimum") and the subsequent cool period (the

"Little Ice Age") are less clear-cut than previously assumed. This changing view of natural variability makes it more difficult to test whether computer models are providing a realistic represcotation of the looger-term hehaviour of the of greeohouse gases, equivalent to

doubling pre-industrial carbon dioxide levels, was to increase the global temperature between about 1.5 and 4.5°C with the greatest warming occurring in polar regions in the win-ter half of the year. But these predictioos did oot tally well with

observed changes this century. Recent models of the climate pro-vide improved treatment of the atmosphere and the oceans and consider other human activities, notably production of sulphate aerosols. The impact of aerosols is of particular interest and the Hadley Ceotre global climate. By the late 1980s the model, developed by a team under hroad consensus was that the effect John Mitchell, indicates more mod-

Moreover, the combination of greenhouse gases and sulphate aerosols matches observed global temperature trends rather well. In addition, the predictions of the regional effects of sulphate aerosols produce temperature trends around the world more

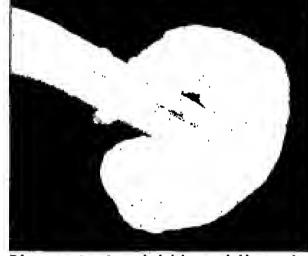
in tune with recent developments. The fact that the inclusion of aerosols produces a better match between model predictions and observed surface temperature trends is a significant step towards attributing global warming to human activities. Moreover, the models do a reasonable job of simulating both natural variability and other spatial est warming than earlier predictions. patterns, including temperature dif-

ferences between the hemispheres, land and oceans, and the troposphere and stratosphere. This suggests, then, that recent changes are not solely nat-ural variability but, in part, evidence of the fingerprint of human activities.

The IPCC view represents the painstaking compilation and analysis of a huge amount of work, but there has been oo sea-change in our understanding. This is the only way forward with scientific advice on a subject as complex as the global climate. Policy makers and the general public will. have to possess their souls in patience; to do otherwise would he foolhardy and almost inevitably

Life in the time of cholera: a new fear of flying

The international flight, the seafood salad and Vibrio cholerae. Bernard Dixon tells a cautionary tale



Prime suspect: under-cooked shrimps probably caused the airline cholera disaster Tony Buckingham

n January 1991, for the first time this ceotury, a chotera epidemic erupted in South America, Within a year, it had spread to 11 different countries, affected 400,000 people and killed more than 4,000 of them. The disease is still raging in that region. But the bacterium responsible for cholera is a capable traveller, especially through water. That is why this month's Epidemiology and Infection contains a disturbing report of an outbreak of the disease contracted from food served on a passenger flight between Lima. Peru, and Los Angeles. Written by Richard Besser, of the University of

California, and his colleagues, it describes the largest airlineassociated epidemic of cholera

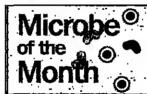
ever recorded. Most people infected by Vibrio choleme do not become ill. especially if they are well-nourished and in good health. Nevertheless, the disease is understandably feared. It is a vile infection, largely attributable to a poison produced by l. cholerae, which causes diar-

rhoea so bad it can lead to death within hours. L'cholerae is invariably spread through contaminated water or food, only rarely passing from person to person. The South American epi-demic began in January 1991.

when a Chinese grain boat flight. They managed to locate taken on board in a cholera-brought the bacterium into 189 of them. Including the five affected country, were the Lima. Paradoxically, it was able who had been hospitalised, 100 source of infection. The latest Lima. Paradoxically, it was able to proliferate and spread there of the passengers proved to be infected with V cholerae. Sevbecause the authorities had suspended chlorination of some eoty-five of them had also of the city's wells. Their motive suffered from diarrhoea since for doing so was to combat a arriving in the US. Teo had far less tangible hazard associ-ated with chemicals which may cholera and were treated accordingly.

All but one item of the food be formed when chlorine reacts with other substances in soil

and water. The recent incident came to light when the LA health department received reports that bacteriologists had found k' cholerae in stools from five people who had been admitted to hospital with severe diarrhoea. One of the patients, a



70-year-old man, had died, All five had been passengers on a flight five days earlier, which had arrived in LA from Buenos Aires, calling at Lima en route. Investigators set out to trace the other 331 people on the where cholera is raging. Richard Besser and his co-

and drink consumed during the flight - including potentially suspect iced drinks and chicken sandwiches - were at most very weakly associated with infection. The exception was a seafood salad. It had been chosen by 87 per cent of the passengers whose stools contained V cholerue, but only by 36 per cent of those who

were free of the bacterium. A caterer in Lima had prepared the salad, but how it became contamioated is unclear. The most likely explanatioo is that the shrimps it cootained were caught in waters containing V. cholerae and the bacterium had not been killed

wheo they were cooked.

Before this incident, the biggest outbreak of cholera associated with airline travel occurred in 1972, wheo 47 passengers developed the disease after a flight from Loodoo to Sydney. Cold hors d'oeuvres,

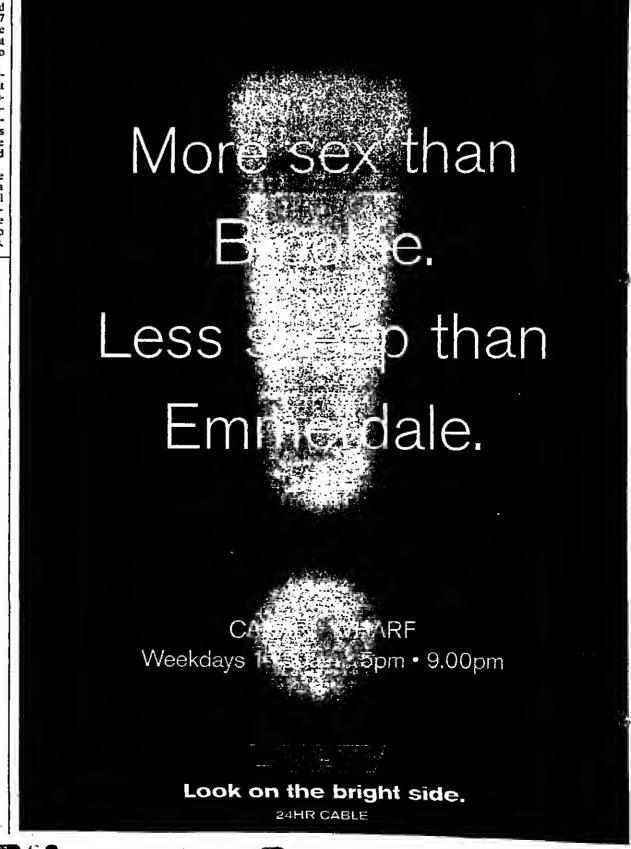
incident clearly demonstrates the risk associated with eating cold foods prepared in a place

authors strongly recommend

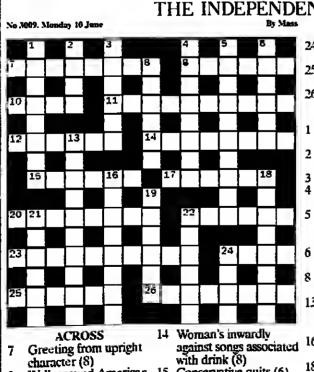
that one conventional piece of advice, often given to travellers io areas with inadequate bygiene and sanitation, should also be followed on flights originating from, or stopping in, such countries. This is to eat only foods that have been thor-

"It is unlikely that the epi-demic in Latin America will cod soon," they conclude, "With thousands of airline passengers dispersing daily from cholera-affected countries, cholera outbreaks could easily occur in the US or other oughly cooked and are still hot. countries unaffected by the

current pandemic." Indeed. one of the most disquieting aspects of the LA outhreak is that it attracted attention only because of its size and severity. Smaller outbreaks may have occurred, yet remained unde-tected. No doubt there will



THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Walk around American State edifice (6)

10 Lively ferret after last of rats (4) 11 Libertine favouring fruit, about pound consumed (10) 12 Mild head of church amongst the cloth (6)

Conservative quits (6) 17 In interval one yields to Northern drink (6) 20 Time in capital with

one on the side? (8) Writer outside struct cafe (6) 23 His objective could well 24 Man alighting from carbe mine (10)

Flower of the Light roast, ultimately Vonth from Jersey g-with Love Swallow's colourings, head to tail (6) - Carnations Carefree male editor, subsidiary (8) DÓWN

Collects party funds aplenty (8) Lodge seen from Southern river (4) Loco's drawn out (6) Flood's lighter with time (8) Irises, loads bordering Eastern features of patio (10) Clear off before high explosive blast (6) Dwarf-like brand raised, first of yews? (6) Aristocrats, number

with letters appended 16 Has regard for details Sank reds, well potted in dim light (8) 19 Lift with snippet of song (6) 21 Glaring, right, during a diatribe (6) 22 Etonian's missed a

boundary? (6)

riage is a Yank? (4)

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